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23 March 1982

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ARTICLE CONTENDS SUBSOIL PRIVATIZATION COMES TOO LATE

Buenos Aires ENERGEIA in Spanish Feb 82 pp 492-493, 508

[Commentary by Roque A. Garcia: "Private Control of Subsoil--A Project: Running Against the Tide?"]

[Text] When Dr Roberto Alemann launched his initiative of considering private control of energy resources in the subsoil, he was not unaware that a bitter debate would begin throughout the country from that moment on. The risk, although apparently well calculated, immediately generated a rough wave of criticisms which, by virtue of their intensity, helped wear away the current economy minister's image rather early.

The discussion which sprang up around the idea therefore has a strong political content which is not devoid of that violent passion with which we Argentines debate our problems. It could not be otherwise in these circumstances since this involves a topic that covers aspects of significant importance such as petroleum production, the territorial sovereignty which these operations involve, the amendment of the Civil Code and the Mining Code--which would entail a basic reform--and, above all, a profound conceptual change which, for the majority of the Argentines, would represent a private-industry-oriented policy with rather unusual characteristics. The sum of all of these factors by itself is a rather heavy dose of subject matter for this bitter debate and, before the proposal was even well known, it was caught between two irreconcilable opinion currents: that of the "statistis" on the one hand and that of the "privatists" on the other hand.

This antagonism has raised such a curtain of dark spots, insidious plotting, and doubts about the outline of the project in question that it is difficult at this time for the average citizen to have a more or less clear idea about the significance, character, and importance of this proposal.

Let us therefore begin by pointing out that the measure which is proposed here consists basically of having the state grant the owner of the soil the right to exploit the hydrocarbon deposits which may be in the subsoil. Under these conditions, the owner would have (a) control over the petroleum and gas deposits which may exist on his land; (b) the right to exploit these resources; and (c) freedom to sell the product extracted either through enterprises owned by him, establishing companies, or signing contracts with domestic or foreign companies.

These general principles therefore cover a vast change which goes beyond the limits of the simple concept of private control and extends to another, more complex area, the area of the juridical system governing mining operations in Argentina.

In this connection we recall as a point of departure for our analysis on this topic that hydrocarbon deposits, according to the country's laws, constitute the private property of the national state or the provinces, depending on the territory in which they are.

This basic concept juridically defines the ownership of petroleum and gas resources and sprang up through the Civil Code which was passed in 1869. Article 2342, paragraph 2, states that "the gold, silver, copper, precious stones and fossil substances are the property of the general state or the particular state, in spite of the control of corporations or private individuals over the land surface."

Further on, the Code, Article 2518, states that "ownership of the soil extends to the entire depth and air space above the soil along perpendicular lines. It comprises all objects which are below the soil, such as [natural] treasures and mines, except for the amendments provided for in special laws on both subjects."

The Mining Code, which was approved in 1886, repeats and develops the concept to the effect that those mineral substances which are in the subsoil are the private property of the state. Talking about property and the right to exploitation, it divides these substances into three categories: the first one (gold, silver, copper, precious stones, and mineral oils) provides that these assets and rights belong to and correspond to the state and the latter can cede these deposits through the system of concessions; the second one (miscellaneous minerals) reserves the right of exploitation on a preferential basis to the proprietor of the soil while the third one comprises only the soil's owner.

When Hydrocarbons Law 12.161 was passed in 1935, that principle was again included; Article 373 states that "the petroleum and liquid hydrocarbons mines are the property of the private assets of the nation or the provinces, depending on the territory in which they are found."

Just 32 years later, under the administration of General Onganía, Hydrocarbons Law 17.319/67 was passed; in its Article 1 it declares that "deposits of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons, situated in the territory of the Republic of Argentina and on its continental shelf, belong to the inalienable and imprescriptible assets of the national state."

These and other antecedents, which constitute the basis of the entire legislation governing exploratory and extraction activities in hydrocarbons in Argentina, and whose origins go back to the time of the viceroyalty, when the crown was the exclusive proprietor of the subsoil, leave no doubt as to the status framework in which the petroleum sector is located, long before it first burst upon the scene in Comodoro Rivadavia.

In view of this juridical tradition, we should not be astonished that the private-ownership-oriented initiative by Dr Alemann triggered such bitter reactions, even though these reactions do not seem to be justified, at least until now, since the project, or, better, the initiative to turn the subsoil over to private control (officially, there is no project of this kind in existence, by the way), is being analyzed by a commission which is to come out with its report during the next several days. The report to be drawn up will represent an initial basic document addressed to the nation's top authorities for evaluation; but, as was pointed out recently by Minister of Public Works and Services Engineer Sergio Martini, "no position has been adopted with regard to turning the subsoil over to private control"; noting that the commission is preparing a study, he said: "We will have the elements of judgment necessary to comment on that possibility although this does not imply fixing the administration's final position."

So much for the facts. Let us now consider the reason and meaning of this debated project which has unleashed so much suspicion, distrust, and fear.

The decision to turn the state's assets over to private control was manifested with particular firmness in the action being taken by the current administration of the Armed Forces. The directive issued by the president, General Galtieri, are not confined to peripheral destatization but on the contrary--and as he himself said--they are aimed at bringing about a profound change that would make it possible once and for all to put an end to the inefficient and expensive entrepreneur-state.

However, in looking further into the privatist approach and in considering the idea of turning the subsoil over to the land owners, so that the latter might exploit it freely, we got ourselves into what we might call almost a destatization mania or, something which is the same thing, an extreme privatist criterion.

The objection becomes valid if we keep in mind that private control of the subsoil cannot by itself rapidly, efficiently, and economically resolve the current status of low petroleum production. Assuming--as do some optimists--that Patagonia would overnight be filled with drilling equipment and that the country would achieve a spectacular advance in its petroleum output is not just a completely euphoric estimate but lacks even minimum foundation.

On the other hand, the decision which the administration is aiming at now would be inopportune in more than one way. First of all, the administration must realize that, by virtue of the justified or unjustified irritation which the project produces among the various opinion sectors, its possible materialization would irremediably be doomed by virtue of the fact that a future civilian administration would certainly reject a measure of this kind.

An antecedent of what happened to the petroleum contracts signed by the administration of Dr Frondizi and cancelled by the administration of Dr Illia is still fresh in the memory of the enterprises and all of public opinion. Wiping out such a precedent does not seem to be an easy job, especially when the political parties are making public their categorical opposition to the undertaking.

Another reason why the initiative does not seem opportune has to do with its collision with an international tendency which gives the state ever greater participation in the petroleum industry.

Although it is true that the country's domestic policies do not have to take as guide the decisions made by other countries, it is in this case a good idea to think about the reasons for the progressive exclusion of the private sector to the benefit of the state, concerning assets which--as in the case of petroleum--have a high economic value and a weighty strategic significance.

The reaction of governments is not difficult to explain if we realize the power attained by the multinational petroleum corporations, the heavily depredatory effects caused by these corporations through the irrational exploitation of the deposits, the noticeable decline in the yield of the wells, and control over prices which the companies have always exerted and, above all, the implications which these negative aspects have had regarding the domestic security of certain nations. If there is some doubt as to this particular point, we might add that one of the first countries to strike a blow at ultraliberal petroleum policies was the United States. As we may assume, this is not a recent attitude since, before the start of World War II, the government had adopted various control measures over enterprises; but, starting with the oil crisis and the progressive decline in oil reserves, government intervention has kept growing and controls have become ever more severe.

It might perhaps be a good idea to point out that this situation also applies in a similar manner to Mexico, Venezuela, the majority of the Arab countries (here we might recall the case of Libya), Canada, etc. We thus see that the Argentine undertaking is coming out at the wrong time and that, for better or worse (because, in the final analysis, everything depends on the conditions and controls which the state would establish), Argentina sometime ago missed the subsoil privatization train and it is now too late to try to catch it.

This sum of considerations however does not prevent us from finding something worthwhile in the idea proposed by Dr Alemann. This is manifested in the proposal of finding new ways to achieve rapid expansion of production and that is quite plausible.

It must be stressed that private intervention must be encouraged and that the best it has to offer must be utilized. This is why it is naturally necessary to make use of all the legal tools provided by the state. So long as constitutional principles and the legal system are not violated, the national state has the obligation to delegate all that which can be done by private enterprise. But this sound principle of subsidiarity must not be carried to extremes which threaten the very interests of the nation or which give rise to conflict situations that would not in any way facilitate the attainment of the goals to be pursued.

The increase in petroleum output is a goal which requires growing participation by the private sector, otherwise the target of achieving self-sufficiency and

exporting the products would remain nothing but a good intention. We must therefore remind the administration that, although it may welcome any new proposal designed to improve production, it must keep in mind that we already have suitable instruments which are sufficiently tested and which at the same time promote the participation of private individuals while implementing the objective of definitely mobilizing this great source of wealth which goes by the name of petroleum.

5058

CSO: 3010/991

IMPACT OF POSSIBLE OIL PRICE DEREGULATION ASSESSED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 28 Feb 82 p 1 sec 3

[Text] LA NACION interviewed Carlos Robertson Lavalle, former secretary of energy under the government of Gen Ongania, and president of the North Patagonia Hydroelectric Company (HIDRONOR) under Gen Videla's government, to learn his opinion of the Ministry of Economics' new regulatory system for the oil and gas industry. Here is Robertson Lavalle's opinion:

"The information published this week by LA NACION on the crisis in the present oil regulations, and the fact that many government officials favor easing up on restrictions that hinder the management of hydrocarbons in our country, deserve some commentary, although we need to study the bill in more detail."

Origin of YPF Debt

"The origin of the indebtedness of Government Oil Deposits (YPF) and that of other companies in the energy sector, including electrical firms, is not current law, but a capricious pricing policy (withholding and rates) that is oriented toward objectives which are not compatible with the sector, without discounting the failure to reach a meeting of the minds, or the fact that reserves were funneled into the Central Bank through these companies' foreign indebtedness.

"In particular, the distortion of the withholding structure, that is, what the oil companies earn from tax-free sales, has roots going back to the subsidies granted certain energy-intensive industries and to thermoelectric power companies, to compensate for the costs contributed by other factors."

Deregulation Desirable

"The deregulation of prices for these products, for the purpose of establishing healthy competition, is desirable, as is the effort to bring domestic prices in line with international ones by eliminating obstacles to imports and exports. The simplification of the tax superstructure is consistent with the prevailing fiscal attitude, and to a certain extent it is a positive development."

What About Hydroelectric Conversion?

"But I still wonder how the country's ambitious plan to convert to hydroelectric power will be carried out if it eliminates the transfer of resources that traditionally have been channeled through hydrocarbons to the electrical sector. Moreover, how will the country finance the energy transmission and distribution projects which the provinces must undertake as a result of the transfer of services formerly provided by the Water and Electricity Company, if the Interior Electrical Development Fund is eliminated?

"We cannot take action in the petroleum sector alone, without considering the effects of that action on the electrical sector, which by its very nature is much less attractive to the private sector."

8926

CSO: 3010/992

VENEZUELA TO GIVE TECHNICAL AID TO PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Feb 82 p 1

[Excerpt] The government of Venezuela has promised free technical assistance to the Barbados Government when the National Petroleum Corporation has been established.

This was disclosed in the Senate yesterday by the Minister responsible for Energy, Senator Clyde Griffith.

The disclosure was made during debate on a Bill to repeal the Natural Gas Corporation and make provision for certain matters consequent upon the repeal.

In effect, the new Bill transfers the functions, assets and liabilities of the Natural Gas Corporation to the NPC. When the Bill comes into force, on a date to be fixed by proclamation, the staff of the NGC will be merged with the staff of the NPC and their employment will be deemed to have been continuous and the terms and conditions of service will not be less favourable.

Giving the background to the measure, Senator Griffith said that in 1979 the Cabinet had decided to set up the NPC, among things, to search for and develop petroleum resources. Since then, however, it was decided that there should still be a Natural Gas Corporation but the functions of the two bodies would have been separate.

But, he added, given the need for an energy corporation, it was subsequently decided to merge the two bodies.

Senator Griffith said that in 1980, Barbados imported some 965 342 barrels of oil which cost Bds\$62.7 million; while in 1981, some 1.2 million barrels were imported at a cost of \$92.5 million. This represented a 47.5 per cent increase in the cost, he said, with an increase of 30 per cent in volume.

He noted that the 1980 imports represented some 14.9 cent of the island's export earnings, while the figure for 1981 was about 23 per cent.

Senator Griffith also disclosed that approaches had been made for Barbados to be used as a pilot area for various experiments in the search for alternative sources of energy.

BRIEFS

OIL EXPLORATION CREDIT--Washington Thursday (CANA)--The World Bank today announced that its affiliate, the International Development Association (IDA) was providing Guyana with about US\$2 million in credit to help promote petroleum exploration there. The assistance--1.7 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRS) will be used to provide the services of specialists to help the government in preparing a promotional programme to attract foreign oil companies. Guyana has sedimentary deposits that may contain oil or gas in commercial quantities. Exploration work at present is limited to the Takuta rift basin, onshore, where the home oil company is drilling. Offshore, a single block of about 8 000 square kilometres (sq km) was recently leased to the Seagull-Dennison Group. The remaining offshore area of about 40 000 sq km is not under lease. A petroleum unit is being set up in the Ministry of Energy and Mines to provide professional management over petroleum exploration activities. The unit will be provided with consultant advice and technical assistance to prepare itself for technical, legal, and accounting responsibilities. Guyana's present petroleum laws will be reviewed and regulations drawn up that will be consistent with attracting foreign private investment in the high risk activity of petroleum search and development. Guyana does not produce crude oil or natural gas, nor does it have refining facilities. [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Feb 82 p 3]

CSO: 3026/193

MINISTER ENCOURAGED ABOUT TESORO'S OPERATIONS, DRILLING PLANS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Feb 82 p 1

[Article by John Alleyne]

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

REP. PATRICK MANNING, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, said on Wednesday that there was "tremendous oil future" in the operations of Trinidad Tesoro Petroleum Company Limited and that the company's "sustained effort at secondary recovery" was a significant feature of their operations.

Mr Manning, who was accompanied on his tour of Tesoro's installations in the South and at Galeota by Permanent Secretary, Mr Trevor Bhoopsingh, described the tour "as most informative and instructive."

He said: "We have learnt something that will stand us in the Ministry in very good stead in the future and we do appreciate Tesoro's activity, the demonstration of their social conscience and the fact that they recognised that they were operating in an agricultural community and were putting some serious inputs into the agricultural sector of the economy."

The Minister spoke in glowing terms of the company's "extensive training programme" and the relationship which it had with the trade unions representing company personnel. That relationship he said, was "excellent."

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

What definitely pleased Minister Manning above most other things was Tesoro's plan to spend upwards of \$50 million in drilling for oil on land, indicating that at present the company was producing some

20,000 barrels of oil a day, exclusive of their one third share of the Trinmar production which was between 12,000 and 13,000 barrels.

He said he was quite impressed with what he saw of a particular platform in the East Galeota area.

He said: "I was extremely impressed with what I saw, not only from the standpoint of good housekeeping which was very clear, but the technology that was associated with the drilling operations."

"The platform, for example, is totally automated. It is devoid of any manpower it is an extremely safe operation; and there are a number of safety devices associated with the platform."

Mr Manning said he was advised by company officials of plans to drill three wells in the East Galeota district of 15,000 feet each, and that it cost an estimated \$6.7 million to drill a well 12,000 feet. As a result he said "you can appreciate the extent of the financial outlay associated with such exploration."

SOCIAL CONSCIENCE

The Energy Minister went on: "One should not lose the opportunity to

point out that there is a tremendous future for the oil industry, not only for the young people associated with the company."

He added: "One of the distinguishing features of Trinidad Tesoro is its community orientation, the fact that it has a strong social conscience and the fact that it recognises fully that it operates in an agricultural community and cannot be completely divorced from the community in which it operates."

He spoke of the company's swing from dairy cattle into beef, and told of the "total animal holdings," (380 head of cattle — 140 dairy cattle, 240 beef.)

He pointed out that the company had been conducting an "extensive training programme" and that during 1981, between 2,300 and 2,500 of the workforce were exposed to training of one kind or another. Half were exposed to technological training and the programme included supervisors, middle management and top level management.

But, more, they were exposed, he said, to the type of discipline not normally utilised in the company which he said was making a contribution, not only to the development of the citizens of the deep South, but to the sustained development of the country in the context of the developmental levels that the Government was seeking to sustain at this time.

Mr Manning referred to his own "rap session" with a number of young geologists, engineers and economists from the Ministry, who, in an informal way, came forward with ideas through which they believed the present declining trends in oil could be arrested and reversed. They were, he said, "sincerely devoted committee and dedicated young men" and while he did not intend to reveal some of the ideas resulting from the discussion, he confided that in time the results of such talks, which were continuing, would be disclosed to the nation at large, thus "giving the direction in which the Ministry proposed to take."

'CARIBBEAN CONTACT' HITS U.S. FOR POLICY OF HOSTILITY

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 18 Feb 82 p 2

[Text]

THE regional church newspaper, *Caribbean Contact*, in its latest edition has issued a call for an end to what it calls the unabated hostility towards Grenada and Nicaragua by the United States.

The front page editorial said it hoped that President Ronald Reagan will make a special effort to be positive about relations between Washington and the Caribbean in his forthcoming State of the Union Address.

Said the monthly church newspaper: "There must be a genuine good neighbourly approach and not the negative tendencies that have characterised his first 14 months as the supreme commander of a Super power with which, the pluralities of culture and ideology aside, it is in the interest of all the nations of this hemisphere to have healthy and sensible relations."

"During 1981, while holding out the promise of a new economic thrust to benefit this region, in the form of a Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), the Reagan administration also spread a lot of suspicions among member states and cleverly generated an anti-Cuba hysteria to justify its interventionist politics in the affairs of a number of countries in this area."

"United States trade representative, William Brock, reiterated at last month's Miami conference on the Caribbean, that his government was "in no hurry" over the CBI. We are by no means surprised. Mr Brock's government is still a very far way in making budgetary provisions for this "initiative", which it would like to use as another instrument of division among nations in this region. Already, in the face of

strong objections from Mexico, the USA stubbornly refuses to even consider the inclusion of Cuba and Grenada in the CBI.

"But if vagueness characterises the CBI's final form, the Reagan White House is quite clear about its strategy to use Cuba as the scapegoat for providing military hardware and training for a number of Caribbean and Central American nations which it hopes to involve in its grand anti-communist design; irrespective of who gets hurt in the process, so long as United States economic and security interests are well preserved."

"Even a quick reading of the "justification" sections of the United States "security assistance programmes" for the "American republics" should be enough to remove any doubts about the real motive in the Reagan government's proposals for Congressional approval for military sales and training in fiscal year 1982."

"The rationale advanced for military assistance and training to the Caribbean, which the United States considers its "third border," must prove most embarrassing, if not objectionable, even to those governments of this region known to be favourably disposed to the USA, since the "programme" is openly setting them up against not only Cuba, but Grenada and Nicaragua as well."

"We are particularly concerned about peace in this region, for respect for political sovereignty and territorial integrity, to again stress our strong objection to the

concocted campaign by the USA to destabilise Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada."

This Caribbean revolutionary troika in no way threatens the "security" of the American society through standing in their respective ways, as alternative paths to development that may not gladden the hearts of private corporate capitalism.

"The Cubans have repeatedly challenged the Reagan administration to prove their military involvement in El Salvador and Nicaragua. But our particular concern on this occasion has to do with the increasing hostility being directed from Washington against Grenada and Nicaragua."

"The bullying tactics by the USA against these two small and underdeveloped Caribbean basin countries, can only be ignored by regional governments and representative organisations to the peril, eventually, of all of us."

"As the Salvadorean nationalists heroically struggle for a negotiated political settlement to their tragic situation, the Nicaraguan and Grenadian governments have been taking their cases against United States interference to various international fora, the latest being last month's meetings of SELA in Panama and the OAS in St. Lucia."

Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, who took his fight against Cuba and Nicaragua to Castries last month, has hawkishly declared that Nicaragua has been transformed into "a platform of terror and war in the region", and ominously warned that "the next several weeks would be crucial".

FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS RECORD BUDGET FOR 1982-1983

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 20 Feb 82 p 3

[Text] ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, Friday (CANA) — Antigua and Barbuda's Finance Minister John St. Luce yesterday presented a record budget which anticipates total expenditure of \$229.3 million for fiscal 1982-83.

Delivering the first Budget since the country gained independence last November, Mr. St. Luce called for greater productivity and a "war on waste."

Recurrent expenditure has been targeted at \$106.3 million, made up mostly of salaries and wages, while capital expenditure has been put at \$123 million. The government expects revenue for the period to be \$99.1 million—a projected deficit on recurrent revenue of \$7.2 million.

Education and health have been given the two biggest slices in expenditure for the fiscal year—\$14.6 million and \$13.2 million respectively.

Mr. St. Luce said that government expenditure would be closely monitored and announced two new tax measures, one for self-employed individuals and a licensing fee on persons who practise "a profession on their own account."

The Finance Minister called for greater productivity and a war on waste which he said were necessary for the new nation to move forward.

"We read or hear almost every day about economic difficulties which are besetting many countries throughout the world, from the smallest to the most

powerful, and I am struck by the growing insistence to be seen in many places that one of the keys to emergence from recession, the reduction of inflation and the attainment of national prosperity is productivity," the minister said.

He noted that for Antigua and Barbuda, productivity should mean securing the best return from investment, whether the investment be in machines, materials or people, and whether products be motor cars or pineapples.

Mr. St. Luce observed that even in parts of the world which did not enjoy Antigua and Barbuda's system of democratic freedom, there was evidence of an awareness of the need for increased productivity without additional investment.

"There can be no doubt that fuller development of the use to which resources are put, leads to a greater return from the investment represented by those resources, and this in turn can be expected to be reflected in the economy," the minister added.

"This is not just abstract theory, it is a real demonstrable practical fact. It is not a concept or principle which can be put aside as appropriate only to the workings of the major countries' economies," Mr. St. Luce said.

He noted that it was a principle which applied to any economic system, large or small and it applied to Antigua and Barbuda no less than it did to the United States.

"The difference is merely one of a scale," the minister said.

"A country like Antigua and Barbuda which is heavily dependent on imports, automatically imports the inflation of the countries with which it trades. Whilst we may have little or no control over this, we can do something to limit a further erosion of value by seeing to it that our own business and economic structure is managed in such a way as to add as little as possible to this by way of home grown inflation.

"Antigua and Barbuda is a new nation and we the people will have to adopt a more responsible attitude to work and indeed to nation building.

"Productivity, both in the private and public sectors leaves much to be desired. If we are to progress, if we are to benefit from improved health and education services we will have to work much harder," Mr. St. Luce said.

St. Luce said that it was his firm belief that with increased productivity and with the active co-operation of all concerned, the economy of Antigua and Barbuda would continue to expand and enable everyone to enjoy a higher standard of living.

He added: "At this time the usual question is how will this deficit be financed. First of all the usual procedures will be followed as far as possible for special expenditure, that is upon the passage of the Appropriation Bill through both houses of Parliament, I will immediately place a restriction on expenditure

classified as special."

Ministries would have to complete a requisition form in applying for money and provide adequate reasons why this expenditure would be needed at the time of application.

The minister noted that of the total allocation for education more than \$4 million would be spent on primary education and over \$4 million on secondary education.

The Finance Minister said that it would be observed that a very high proportion of the recurrent expenditure dealt with the payment of salaries, wages and allowances to medical personnel.

The Finance Minister added that this was typical of essential services such as health and education.

The Prime Minister's office, which is responsible for security, of the state has been allocated \$12.5 million, with the Ministry of Finance getting \$11.5 million.

The Public Works Department has been allocated \$10.5 million.

Mr. St. Luce said that during the year special emphasis would be given to repairing drains and roads and from all observations a good start had been made.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been allocated \$9 million.

This ministry which is headed by Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird who is also responsible for energy, tourism and economic development.

The Finance Minister said that since independence Antigua and Barbuda had been playing a greater role in international affairs.

The Ministry of Agriculture had an allocation of \$4.7 million.

The Finance Minister said that during the year, the government's agricultural programme would be aimed at strengthening domestic agriculture by increasing food production in the areas where there was a ready local demand.

He noted that production for export would be promoted and cotton production would be continued in order to allow for the assessment of the possibility of an integrated industry and to take advantage of the increased price offered.

The Finance Minister said that sugar cane production would be expanded.

The Ministry of Labour has been allocated \$1.4 million.

Mr. St. Luce said that the Labour Department continued to perform its role of maintaining industrial peace and this was very important for the continued economic development of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Ministry of Legal Affairs has an allocation of \$1.1 million and the Ministry of Local Government and Consumer Protection had an allocation of \$581 000.

The Finance Minister said that the total projected revenue of \$99.1 million was based on a careful assessment of the actual trends during the last three years.

HYDROCARBON LAW REFORMS UNDER STUDY

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Feb 82 p 12

[Text] Official sources report that four plans are now under study for the reform of the hydrocarbon law.

In general, the plans share the objective of liberalizing the development of hydrocarbons, bringing domestic prices in line with those that prevail on the international market, and beginning to turn over major portions of the sector to private hands.

It should be noted that none of the four plans involves the possibility of placing the subsoil in private hands, an idea which was discarded when the community reacted negatively to announcements to that effect.

The differences among the plans are based on the means that would be used to achieve the basic objectives.

One of these plans was drawn up at the Ministry of Economics. It involves the deregulation of oil and gas prices, the elimination of existing restrictions on private firms, and the liberalization of oil and gas exports and imports.

Private Sector

Within this context, the areas of exploration now held by Government Oil Deposits (YPF) would be transferred to the private sector rapidly, while the exploitation sector would be transferred over a longer time period (5 years).

This plan also calls for the substitution of several taxes, such as the one for the National Highway Fund and those on electrical energy, whether national, provincial or municipal, and for the creation of a tax on motor fuels and gasoil.

In addition, as a temporary provision, for 5 years there would be ceilings on the prices of oil and natural gas derivatives at the refining and marketing stages. This measure is based on the need to provide the necessary time to develop competitive conditions so as to prevent monopolistic practices.

Other Plans

In turn, another plan being formulated involves an immediate move to match domestic prices with international ones, based on the belief that this would lead rapidly to self-sufficiency in oil, and at the same time provide a major incentive to attract the investments necessary for the tasks that must be carried out.

Another plan revolves mainly around mechanisms to accelerate the exploration and development of hydrocarbons by calling for the peripheral privatization of YPF.

8926

CSO: 3010/992

ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES TO BE ESTABLISHED IN TIERRA DEL FUEGO

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Feb 82 p 2 sec 3

[Text] Since Law 19.640 was passed, there has been a great deal of geopolitical interest in the establishment of companies in the interior of the country. In the case of the national territory of Tierra del Fuego, this interest has taken on a very singular quality; according to local authorities, it has translated into increased economic and social activity, with the ensuing benefits.

This law allows firms to stabilize costs (and of course costs are much lower), which has had major repercussions on the consumption of locally-produced manufactured goods, not only by the residents of Tierra del Fuego, but also by the rest of the Argentine population.

One of the last and most recent moves to that southern region was by ITT Drean, which will produce color televisions there after some initial raw material phases to develop elements such as the plastic sheets for the cabinets, which require a molding process before they can be used; that process will also take place at the same plant.

Advanced Technology

The television set that will come out of the plant, which occupies three lots, will be produced by highly technical equipment that is provided by the German firm which holds its patent, Standard Electric Lorenz (SEL). The plant also boasts "robot" equipment which utilizes the most advanced technology in the world.

The company has also installed subsidiary plants that manufacture the complete cabinet, beginning with the raw material, and an expanded polystyrene plant, which will meet the needs of ITT Drean as well as other plants already located on the island.

Social Projects

In the area of social projects, the company is building a complete housing development with spacious, comfortable family dwellings. There is also a cafeteria and women's lounges for female employees, dormitory-style dwellings with a central dining area for male employees, and meeting places.

The Tierra del Fuego authorities have expressed an interest in locating more industries there, bearing in mind that job sources have multiplied recently because of this trend.

Aside from the fact that this development fulfills a geopolitical objective, they claim that it promotes social mobility as the workers, technicians and engineers assigned to the factories establish permanent residence. All this favors the increased and improved development of the region.

8926

CSO: 3010/992

AFP ITEM CITES DETAILS OF MILITARY BUDGET

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 23 Feb 82 p 14

[Text] Buenos Aires--The Argentine military budget for 1982 will be about \$4 billion, which represents 4.5 percent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), specialists estimated today.

This figure was reached despite a plan to reduce military spending by about 10 percent (some \$420 million), presented to President Leopoldo Galtieri by his minister of economics, Roberto Alemann, within the context of a struggle against the critical socioeconomic situation of the country.

Arms Purchases

According to these sources, the budget cut, which was immediately accepted by the military authorities in power, will have the most significant impact on the functional aspects of the commands. The operative capacity of the forces will not be modified.

Among the Army's plans for production and purchases is the TAM system (a 30-ton tank, personnel transport, mortar transport, command vehicle, communications, etc.), which is in full mass-production in the country and will not be suspended. Also included in the plans is the purchase abroad of missiles (in 1981 the Franco-German Roland ground-to-air missile was introduced), another 57 Kuerassier antitank weapons and Puma helicopters.

The Navy is in the process of modernizing and incorporating four TR-1700 and two TR-1400 submarines, four Meko 360 destroyers (the first of them was launched last week in FRG, where they are being built), and six Meko 140 corvettes (the first of the series, under construction in this country, was recently incorporated).

The Naval Air Force bought 14 Super Etendard fighter planes in France, to bolster its aircraft carrier's fleet. It will also obtain eight MB-339 planes and another eight Lynx helicopters.

Aeronautical production plans, which will also escape serious cutbacks, include the IA-58 Pucara (for use by national forces, plus a new export

version) and the IA-63, a jet for advanced basic training which is being developed in conjunction with the Dornier Company of FRG.

Percentage of GDP

The gradual increase in military spending in recent years, totalling a record \$4.5 billion in 1981 (4.5 percent of the GDP), represented a change with respect to the percentage of the GDP, which had been about 2.5 percent between 1968 and 1974, according to our sources.

The first increase occurred in 1975 and 1976, in view of the need to deal with subversion. The percentage of the GDP then jumped to 3.5 percent.

Then the border dispute with Chile over the Beagle Channel heated up, and in 1978 both countries reached the brink of war. This resulted in an increase in defense spending to \$2.1 billion. That figure held steady, with slight increments, throughout 1979 and 1980.

Military sources also assert that about \$5 billion was spent to prepare for a possible war with Chile. That money came from special accounts and funds set aside for emergencies.

Comparison

It is useful to compare the percentage of military spending with respect to the GDP in Argentina, with that of other countries. According to specialists, this year the percentage in France is 3.38 percent; Great Britain 4.5 percent; United States 6 percent; Soviet Union 11 percent; and the Federal Republic of Germany 3 percent.

As for Latin America, according to the same sources, in 1980 military spending represented 7 percent of the GDP in Brazil; 3.3 percent in Peru; 9.4 percent in Chile; 6 percent in Cuba; and 0.6 percent in Mexico.

8926

CSO: 3010/992

ADEFA OFFICIAL STATES PROBLEMS OF AUTO INDUSTRY

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Feb 82 pp 1, 4

[Excerpt] Economic Minister Roberto Alemann met this morning with the head of the Association of Automobile Manufacturers of the Republic of Argentina (ADEFA), Carlos Mandry. Together they studied the price policy of terminals, and the possibility of reaching an agreement with the government to reactivate the domestic market.

The record of their conversation, which was not previously announced, also indicates that they dealt with issues revolving around the future automotive system, particularly the system of compensated exchange.

After his unexpected meeting with the chief of the Ministry of Economics, which lasted more than an hour, the private director left the ministry without making a statement.

The interview took place in an atmosphere of undeniable concern and uncertainty in the automotive sector, only days after the economic minister met with the chairmen of Renault of France and Ford Motor Argentina.

A topic of special significance during these meetings is undoubtedly the future regulatory system of the sector. That system will begin when the current one expires next 31 December. On this subject, Secretary of Industry and Mining Elvio Baldinelli has already stated that studies are proceeding at a rapid pace, and will be finished in about 3 months.

It should be noted that Baldinelli said 2 weeks ago that there were plans for a significant decrease in the price of national autos, with the maintenance of at least the current level of nationally-produced parts, and without causing significant tax reductions.

There is a certain fear in the industrial sector that there will be a major decline in import tariffs, at present one of the highest protective measures in force. This industrial sector receives a great benefit from the tariffs, which can be up to 200 percent if both tariffs and appraisals are computed.

8926

CSO: 3010/992

VOLANDO CALLS FOR MOBILIZATION OF FARM SECTOR

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 25 Feb 82 p 8

[Text] Cordoba--At the end of 2 days of deliberations in this capital, the Central Board of Directors of the Argentine Agrarian Federation released the so-called "Cordoba Declaration," in which it announces that "in order to avoid greater problems before it is too late," it will begin "a mobilization for change, fostering an effort to educate public opinion," and a "new demand that the authorities review the policies they have applied so far."

The head of the organization, Humberto Volando, releasing the document at a press conference yesterday afternoon, described the agriculture sector as being in a "tremendously critical" situation, and stressed that "measures must be taken so that our voices will be heard."

With regard to the actions which will result from the announced mobilization, the leader declared that "they will be borne out by events." He did not exclude the possibility of contacts with the Multiparty Organization and labor groups, "with which we have had no conversations so far, and this has prevented us from agreeing on goals and collaborating in decision-making."

"All Legal Means"

When pressed by journalists to go into more detail about the nature of the agrarian mobilization, Volando stressed that "all legal means will be used to educate public opinion about the situation in agriculture." He did not rule out "events, meetings, round table discussions and conversations" to carry out the mobilization "individually (the Agrarian Federation) or in conjunction with other sectors or entities." He suggested that the National Business Caucus (CONAE) be revived.

When asked if the Agrarian Federation would join a cessation of activities called by labor organizations, he responded that at this time it would not be possible to take such a step because of "very severe provisions that are in effect, and a highly repressive apparatus." "We will do," he reiterated, "whatever we can within the law, as merited by the circumstances."

Document

The "Cordoba Declaration" that the president of the Agrarian Federation turned over to journalists states that "the specific results obtained during this period (of 6 years), which are significant both in terms of their continuity and the discretionary way they have been implemented, could not be more disappointing, with the sole exception of the anti-subversion struggle."

"The economy is bankrupt," he went on, "the financial structure in disarray; inflation breaks worldwide records year after year; the domestic debt is impossible to amortize, while the foreign debt places among the most heavily mortgaged nations of the world; culture and education are in an obvious state of decline; public health has deteriorated; corruption is on the rise; social security is jeopardized; tax pressures are confiscatory; unemployment continues to rise; the exodus of Argentines is a national disgrace, etc. All this is due to the obstinacy of those who run our public affairs without listening to or heeding the voices of representative entities which repeatedly and opportunely warn of errors."

The declaration, finally, states that "the painful evidence demands that the Argentine Agrarian Federation be heeded before the notion takes hold that there can be no solution through responsible dialog, and that only active resistance will promote the changes that the country needs."

8926

CSO: 3010/992

PLP NAMES FINAL THREE CANDIDATES FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 Feb 82 p 1

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Text]

THE NATIONAL General Council of the ruling Progressive Liberal Party last night ratified its final three candidates for the upcoming general elections.

Television personality Charles Carter was named for Holy Cross, Lawyer Neville Adderley got the nod for Montagu, and Mrs Willamae Bridgewater will carry the party's colours in Baillou Hill.

This ended two months of vigorous lobbying by various factions within the party seeking to get their favourite candidate nominated.

At the convention last year, the PLP ratified 39 candidates -- one more than the total number of seats presently comprising the House of Assembly, in anticipation of a new constituency in Grand Bahama.

However, when the Constituencies Commission finally reported, five new seats were recommended -- three in New Providence, one in Grand Bahama, and Bimini and the Berry Islands comprising a fifth seat.

Initially, Mr Adderley was vying for the Yamacraw constituency. However, last

week the PLP decided to take James O Brown out of Montagu and put him in Yamacraw. This left Montagu open for Mr Adderley.

Also named to contest Montagu are Social Democratic Party leader Norman Solomon, and Free National Movement's Orville Turnquest.

One of the biggest surprises was the rejection of Maisie Key-Thorn for Holy Cross and the ratification of Mr Carter. When Mr Carter's name was first mentioned last month as a prospective candidate, he expressed surprise saying: "This is news to me."

However, reports persisted that Mr Carter was being seriously considered but for Baillou Hill instead, where the party felt that a strong personality was needed to win that constituency.

Although Mrs Bridgewater was also being considered for Baillou Hill, factions in the party preferred either Mrs Gladys Manuel or Senator Mispah Tertullian.

The official opposition's shadow Minister of Tourism Arthur A Foulkes has been nominated by the FNM for Baillou Hill. The FNM is yet to name anyone for Holy Cross.

BRIEFS

UNION-PLP DISAGREEMENT--The continued hiring of Filipino workers at the Government-owned Cable Beach Hotel was branded as "an affront to our nation, a total disregard for the economic plight of our construction workers" by the Construction and Civil Engineering Trade Union. And, Union president H H Minnis, in protest against the mistreatment of construction workers in the Bahamas has, effective today, resigned his membership in the ruling Progressive Liberal Party. In a letter to PLP leader Prime Minister Lynden Pindling, Mr Minnis stated: "For the reasons stated in the union press release and more than any other, which are against the best interest of the construction workers which I represent, and in order to uphold and protect the fighting image of these people, my conscience demands that I resign now my membership with the PLP. My fullest attention or guidance in the dark days ahead must be with the workers who need all the protection they can get." In a release issued by the union and signed by Mr Minnis as president, the continued presence of Filipino construction workers at the Cable Beach Hotel "while many Bahamian workers walk our streets in search of these very same jobs," was severely criticised. The union asked that that situation be corrected "without delay." [Excerpt] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Feb 82 pp 1, 14]

CSO: 3025/194

ADAMS SEES SUGAR'S HEALTH IN PRIVATE-SECTOR OWNERSHIP

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Feb 82 p 11

[Text]

Barbados' Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams has linked state intervention in the Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago sugar industries with their relatively poor performance compared with Barbados' which is still mostly in private hands.

Mr. Adams told a political mass meeting here this week of the performance of the Caribbean Community's (Caricom) main sugar producing states, as he sought to justify the need for keeping local wage increases manageable for the sake of maintaining a reasonably viable industry in Barbados.

The meeting of his ruling Barbados Labour Party (B.L.P.) saw Mr. Adams announce settlement of a prolonged pay wrangle that had delayed by a week the official start of Barbados' vital 1982 sugar cane harvesting season.

The final settlement formula amounted to a 25 per cent raise over two years for the less than 8 000 unionised workers. That was roughly what their bargaining agents, the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) had been asking for in the latter stages of the negotiations, but it was 10 per cent less than the BWU's original demand.

Mr. Adams argued that though the Barbados industry had lost money in 1981 and would lose again this year, it was doing better than those that were state-controlled or Government-subsidised in Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Said Mr. Adams: "The Barbados sugar industry..is

the only one now in the West Indies which is not either fully subsidised by the Government, owned by the Government and running at a loss, or actually in demise, dead and can't rise again.."

He said the nationalisation of Guyana's formerly British-owned sugar industry in the 1960s was one of the factors stifling development in that socialist South American republic.

Mr. Adams pointed to what he said were recent statistics which showed that the per capita income there was seven times less than it was in Barbados.

"And one of the reasons is that they rushed into nationalising the sugar industry..," the Barbadian leader declared.

"They had to pay the English owners who had first call on it, so whoever makes money the former English owners do not lose, since they are being paid their money in London out of the proceeds of the (annual) crop."

The Guyana industry, he said, had since nationalisation been unable to pay proper wages.

"The (Guyanese) workers work for a quarter to a third of what sugar workers get in Barbados and the industry, although it is the biggest export earner in Guyana, still does not and has not been able to contribute to that country's development in the way that our industry has in Barbados," Mr. Adams said.

The industry here, with Government owning few of the 60-odd sugar estates and none of the six factories, has

traditionally made money both for the producers and the economy.

In fact sugar is second only to tourism in its foreign exchange earning power, pulling in Bds\$109 million in 1980 from 135 000 tonnes of sugar produced.

The year 1975 was a bumper one, with the industry raking in Bds\$95 million of the Bds\$178 million earned from Barbados' total exports — hard currency which came in handy to cushion the otherwise crippling effects of a four-fold hike in oil prices.

But last year, unseasonal rains which disrupted harvesting, plus low exports prices and a falling pound sterling combined to slash projected export earnings from the industry by some Bds\$43 million.

The producers said the 1981 crop left them with debts of some Bds\$15 million with the local commercial banks, hence the plantations' reluctance to agree to the BWU's original wage demands for the current crop.

But Prime Minister Mr. Adams says that "given a proper try, (sugar) can be an industry to provide jobs at proper wages for an industrious work force and at the same time produce an agricultural surplus to help us pay for the food that we cannot grow, like rice, wheat and other things that we import because we have to."

Mr. Adams said the performance of Jamaica's state-owned industry can be summed up by the fact that the Government there had actually asked to send a mission to investigate the efficiency of the local sugar industry.

There was one sugar factory in Jamaica employing 380 people and a similar sized plant here producing roughly the same amount of sugar operated with about 84 persons the Prime Minister said.

As for Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Adams said the industry's

performance statistics he had read in the Press for that oil-rich state were unbelievable.

He said he had seen one newspaper report which put the Government's losses at TT\$25.0 million (TT dollar is 82 Bds cents) from an industry which was bringing in only TT\$150 million.

Said Mr. Adams: "The industry there exist only because it is subsidised and when you subsidise it, it means you take away money from development in some other sphere — creating jobs and perhaps other export industries — and you throw it into a badly organised industry and it just goes down the drain."

"In Barbados alone in the Caribbean we have an industry which is not entirely viable, but can be made viable, and in certain years actually makes money."

This potential viability, Mr. Adams said, must not now be threatened by exorbitant wage demands.

Barbados expects to produce about 100 000 tonnes of sugar this year from just over a million tonnes of cane.

This would be a little more than the 94 000 tonnes of sugar of 1981, when about 40 000 tonnes of canes were left standing in the ground as reaping was abandoned because of the rainy weather.

Though most of the canes here are still harvested manually, a dwindling labour force over the last decade or so has produced more and more mechanisation.

At last count 15 per cent of total reaping was done by the five dozen mechanical harvesters developed by the local sugar industry with foreign assistance.

And last year 70 per cent of canes reaped were loaded by machines.

The last 10 years also saw a rationalisation of the sugar factories, with a new one due to go into operation this season, and two closed since the 1981 crop.

BRIEFS

REECE TO SENATE--Attorney-at-law Mr. Tony Reece, 33, has been appointed to the Senate to fill the place vacated by hotelier, Mr. Maurice Ward. The announcement was made in the Upper Chamber yesterday by Acting President, Senator John Wickham, who read a message from the Governor General Sir Deighton Ward announcing the appointment with effect from Monday. It was not stated when Mr. Reece, who was an unsuccessful candidate for the Barbados Labour Party in the June 1981 general elections, would be sworn in. Mr. Reece lost the election in the St. Michael North-West constituency to Mr. Lawson Weekes of the Democratic Labour Party in a three-cornered race by 343 votes. The other candidate was independent Mr. Joseph Pile. Mr. Reece was educated at the Wesley Hall Boys' School, Combermere and the College of Law in London. He is currently attached to the law firm of Hutchinson and Banfield in Bridgetown. Mr. Reece is a past President of the Bridgetown Toastmasters' Club and a former secretary-treasurer of the Barbados Bar Association. His appointment followed the February 1 resignation of Mr. Ward, himself an unsuccessful candidate in the last general elections. [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Feb 82 p 1]

DECLINE IN EXPORTS--Barbadian exports declined by 7.2 percent during 1981 when compared with the level of exports for 1980. This was stated yesterday by Executive Director of the Export Promotion Corporation (EPC), Philip Williams, as he delivered the organisation's first annual report at the Hilton Hotel. "In terms of export performance, 1981 was not a good year for Barbados. Export figures from the Government Statistical Service are only available to the end of October, 1981, however our projections indicate that total domestic exports for 1981 were of the order of \$313 million compared with \$337.3 million in 1980, a decline of 7.2 percent," Williams stated. He added that this negative growth followed the year 1980 which showed an increase in domestic exports of 43.7 percent on the 1979 figure. However, Williams blamed the decline in sugar exports for the negative figures and said that if this commodity was removed then the figures would show a modest increase in non-sugar domestic exports of about 4.3 percent for 1981, compared with the 1980 increase of 32 percent on the corresponding 1979 figures. He stated that sugar exports to the United States declined by \$31.8 million last year over 1980, while those to Barbados other sugar importers fell by \$2.4 million. Williams said that 1981 was the first full calendar year of EPC's operation and during that time it had made significant progress in establishing a viable organisation designed to assist exporters through the provision of a number of services. [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 25 Feb 82 p 24]

SENATOR DE LA CHEVOTIERE RESIGNS; SWAN APPOINTS TWO

Disillusionment With UBP

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 6 Feb 82 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] Senator Dr. Paul De La Chevotiere, who two years ago switched from the P.L.P. to the U.B.P., has now decided to quit politics altogether. He handed his resignation letter to Premier the Hon. John Swan yesterday minutes before the House of Assembly sat. Dr. De La Chevotiere, 52, told the Premier that he wished to step down from the Senate to devote more time to his family and medical practice.

The Trinidad-born politician admitted to some disillusionment with the U.B.P. but pledged his continuing support to the ruling Party.

"I support the philosophy of the U.B.P. and will continue to do so if they live by that philosophy," he said.

Asked later if he was disillusioned, Dr. De La Chevotiere said: "I guess anybody in politics has a certain amount of disillusionment. That is not the primary reason for me getting out.

"For one thing I realise that the Premier is a new broom. If he wants to do any sweeping then I will get out of his way. I was not there on the advice of this particular Premier. The Premier who appointed me resigned."

Dr. De La Chevotiere sounded a slight note of bitterness when he added: "There has been no forthcoming word from this Premier that everything is okay. Now is the time to make my move."

Dr. De La Chevotiere said he was not aware of any dissension within the U.B.P.

"I am not privy to that," he said. "Most of the dissension I read about."

The Premier has not yet announced whether he will be reappointing Senators Michael King and Llewellyn Peniston. His two definite appointments so far are the Hon. Charles Collis, who succeeds the Hon. Sir John Plowman as Government spokesman, and the Hon. Quinton Edness, Minister of Community Affairs.

Simons, Pearman Named

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 10 Feb 82 p 1

[Text] Premier the Hon. John Swan yesterday put the finishing touches to his new look Government with the appointment to the Senate of Mr. Gerald Simons and Mr. John Irving Pearman. They will take their seats today in place of Senators Michael King and Dr. Paul De La Chevotiere, neither whom was asked to serve again.

The appointment of Mr. Simons, 34, will be welcomed by the National Trust, of which he is currently president. His term as Trust chief is soon to end but he will undoubtedly champion conservation during Senate debates.

Mr. Simons is manager of Argus Group Bermuda Life Insurance Company and serves on a number of public boards.

Mr. Pearman, 54, is the managing director of Holmes Williams and Purvey. He was a member of the Royal Commission into the 1977 disturbances and was on the Apprenticeship and Training Council and the Housing Corporation.

Announcing the appointments Mr. Swan said Mr. Simons has a great deal of experience in the insurance field as well as in safeguarding local amenities. Mr. Pearman was said to be experienced in labour and management matters.

"I feel they will reflect Government's philosophy and policies and enunciate them, probably as well as Mr. King and Dr. Chevotiere said the Premier.

Asked why he was not reappointing the two choices of former Premier the Hon. David Gibbons Mr. Swan said he felt Mr. King and Dr. De La Chevotiere had "had an opportunity..."

He continued: "I felt that since I was forming a new Cabinet it was time to bring about some changes." Mr. Swan said he had made it clear to the two new Senators that their appointments were not for life. Only two previous Government appointees remain in the Senate--the Hon. Quinton Edness, Minister of Community Affairs, and Senator Llewellyn Peniston.

The Hon. Charles Collis Minister without portfolio, replaces Sir John Plowman as Government spokesman in the Senate.

Mr. Swan confirmed that he had considered including a woman in the new line up and thought this might be possible in the future.

Dr. De La Chevotiere anticipated which way the axe would swing and announced his resignation last Friday. At the same time he revealed that he was quitting politics altogether to devote more time to his family and medical practice.

Mr. King, personnel manager at the Provident Bank, was not available for comment.

BRIEFS

CANCELLED TOURISM DRIVE--Government and Bermuda's hotels have scrapped plans for a massive tourism drive in March. And the campaign will not go ahead until hotel workers agree a new contract with their employers. The move was immediately condemned yesterday by Opposition M.P.s as a bid to "wave the big stick" at hotel workers and force them to sign a new contract quickly, even though their current contract does not expire until the end of February. And the Opposition called on parties not involved in the hotel negotiations to stop making "veiled threats" about the effects of a delay in reaching a settlement. The shock announcement of the cancellation of the tourism drive, in which Government and the hotels had expected to spend about \$200,000, was made in the House of Assembly by the Hon. David Gibbons, Minister of Finance. The campaign would have involved hoteliers and tourism officials meeting travel agents in the U.S. Mr. Gibbons began by reminding M.P.s that 62,000 fewer visitors came to Bermuda last year than in 1980. He had been told that prospects for the early part of this year were poor, and that economic situations abroad meant any rapid improvement was unlikely. "It is normal under these conditions for our Department of Tourism to increase its promotional and advertising activity to try and counteract these market conditions," said Mr. Gibbons. A major promotion tour was scheduled for mid-March but has been postponed as the hoteliers, who are joint sponsors of such promotions, are not prepared to participate until such time as the present negotiations between the Hotel Employers of Bermuda and the Bermuda Industrial Union have been concluded. [Excerpt] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 30 Jan 82 pp 1, 2]

TALKS WITH PORTUGUESE--There was little of the usual blaze of camera lights at a hastily-called press conference yesterday. The conference was called late yesterday afternoon to release the results of five-day talks between Portuguese and Acorean Government officials and a Bermuda delegation on Portuguese nationals' work contracts. That release contained the following terse lines: "Following five days of cordial discussions, the Government of Bermuda and the Government of Portugal are pleased to advise that provisional agreement has been reached, subject to ratification by both Governments." No questions were allowed. There was no explanation of what the talks were in general about. Leader of the Portuguese delegation Dr. Augusto DeSousa thanked the Bermuda delegation and the British Government. "We hope this accord to which we have just agreed will be a first step in a tradition of friendship and cooperation and interest of our people and our country." [Excerpts] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 6 Feb 82 p 6]

SOCIALIST'S HOME FIREBOMBED--A founder of the Bermuda Workers Socialist Party and his family narrowly missed being injured Sunday night when two Molotov cocktails were hurled at his Kilderry Estate, Smith's Parish, home. It was the latest in a string of incidents that Socialist Party member Mr. Glen Fubler believes are being directed at him because of his political beliefs. But Mr. Fubler yesterday had little idea who might be waging the campaign against him, and Police were appealing for any information that might shed light on the incident. Mr. Fubler and two members of his family were at his father's home on Sunday night when the fire bombs made out of rum bottles filled with gasoline and rags were tossed at a dining room window. Mr. Fubler said he thought people might be victimising himself and his family because of his association with the Socialist Party, and the Anti-Apartheid Group of Bermuda. [Excerpts] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 9 Feb 82 pp 1, 2]

CSO: 3025/190

PRC TO RESUME BRAZILIAN SUGAR IMPORTS, GIVE PREFERENCE

Sugar Imports

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Mar 82 p 22

[Text] Brasilia (O GLOBO)--The PRC this year will resume its sugar imports from Brazil which were suspended in 1980, and will also increase its steel imports, which are currently limited to 50,000 tons. This agreement was reached yesterday between PRC Foreign Trade Vice Minister Lu Xuzhang and Brazilian Industry and Commerce Minister Camilo Penna.

The two ministers agreed to begin negotiations next year on the exchange of Brazilian iron ore for PRC coal, whose production today amounts to 60 million tons yearly. That operation will depend, however, on the reorganization of port structures, transport system and the mines now being exploited by the PRC Government to increase coal production. Almost all production of coal is currently being used for domestic consumption and some exports.

Penna stated that the consolidation of these negotiations will contribute to evening up the bilateral trade balance which has been unfavorable to Brazil for the past 2 years. In 1980, the Brazilian deficit amounted to \$172.1 million (\$72.2 million worth of exports and \$244.3 million worth of imports), which last year increased to \$245.7 million (\$104 million worth of exports against \$349.7 million worth of imports).

Brazilian sugar exports to the PRC between 1977 and 1979 totaled \$40 million, but were discontinued in 1980 due to increase in local production. Lu Xuzhang told Penna that the limitation of the area allocated for sugar cane plantations due to the need to grow food products, especially rice, demanded the resumption of imports. The amount and price of sugar will be established by negotiations with the Sugar and Alcohol Institute [IAA] on a date yet to be set.

Regarding steel exports, Penna reminded the PRC vice minister about the negotiations carried out by the Brazilian Iron and Steel Corporation [Sidebras] to increase the current imports of 50,000 tons, based on the agreement signed in 1978 between the two countries which provides for exports

of up to 500,000 tons per year. Lu Xuzhang stated that the agreement could not be fulfilled due to a reconsideration and an import reduction policy to less than PRC's real needs for steel, but voiced guarantees that there is a margin to increase the volume of imports above the 50,000 tons now purchased.

Oil Deals Preference

PY111101 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Mar 82 p 22

[Text] Brasilia (O GLOBO)--After meeting with Brazilian Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals, PRC Foreign Trade Vice Minister Lu Xuzhang, yesterday said that the Chinese Government is greatly interested in having Braspetro [Petrobras International Inc.] win the international tender which is currently underway to prospect for oil in the China Sea. [as published].

It would be an honor for the Third World and we expect that Braspetro will win the tender, Minister Lu Xuzhang said.

A high ranking Petrobras source admitted that the China Sea offers exceptional possibilities for finding large oil deposits. Lu Xuzhang stated that the area offered for bids encompasses 150,000 square km and "is extremely oil-rich." Practically everyone of the large multinational oil firms have submitted bids.

The PRC will give preference to Brazilian enterprises whenever it purchases goods or services through international tenders, as long as these goods or services are competitive. This information was released yesterday by the PRC foreign trade vice minister during his meeting with Brazilian Planning Minister Delfim Neto.

The two ministers examined the possibility of expanding bilateral trade and agreed to stimulate the flow of information by means of contacts between missions of the two countries. Delfim Neto will go to the PRC in the second half of the year in response to an invitation issued by Lu Xuzhang.

The latter said that Brazil will be one of the two countries that will be given preference for purchasing oil from the PRC in case its production is increased.

CSO: 3001/93

BRIEFS

EMBRAER REPRESENTATIVE IN FRG--The Brazilian Aeronautics Company (Embraer) has produced 65 Bandeirante planes, of which 53 have been exported abroad. These exports amount to 14.5 billion cruzeiros. Now that the Embraer has established an agency in the FRG, it has representatives in nine different countries. [Text] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Mar 82 PY]

CSO: 3001/93

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS CRITICIZE ECONOMIC POLICY

PY242215 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1620 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 24 Feb (LATIN-REUTER)--The Chilean Agricultural Producers Confederation has issued a harsh criticism of the government economic team and charged that "the banking sector is destroying our assets."

In a statement issued today at the end of meeting attended by agricultural leaders, the confederation notes: "Farmers are confronting a new massive and drastic agrarian reform because of a greedy and erroneous banking policy."

The agricultural leaders reasserted their support for President Augusto Pinochet, but they disagreed with a statement he issued during his recent visit to the southern region.

They also rejected the repeated, unjust and erroneous proposal made by Finance Minister Sergio de Castro who reasserted the enforcement of the free enterprise economic policy.

The agricultural producers are complaining about the lack of government aid and the competition from imported products that enter the country with a single import tariff of 10 percent.

They added: If we had been able to hold a dialogue with government officials, we could have shown them that the present economic recession is, to a great extent, being generated by ourselves, mainly as a result of erroneous decisions taken by the economic team rather than international factors.

They noted that the enforcement of an unjustified system that protects the banking sector allows the readjustment of interest rates while the agricultural sector is left unprotected by lowering the prices of their products below the cheapest production costs.

The agricultural sector also asked the government to carry out an investigation on readjustment of their bank debts, since they allege that banks doubled their interest rates.

They also demanded the repeal of the credit terms favorable to imports and requested a report on protectionist practices on imported products.

CSO: 3010/1048

BRIEFS

BRITISH AMBASSADOR ACCEPTED--President Augusto Pinochet has accepted the appointment of John Kyrle Hickman as new ambassador of Great Britain to Chile. [PY051144 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 2229 GMT 02 Mar 82 PY]

CHILEAN AMBASSADORS ACCEPTED--The governments of Panama and Guatemala have accepted the appointments of Brig Gen (Ret) Ivan Dobud Urquieta and Brig Gen (Ret) Jose Benito Piuuzzi Munoz as Chilean ambassadors to those countries respectively. [PY051144 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 2229 GMT 02 Mar 82 PY]

NEW STATE COUNCIL MEMBER--Air Force Gen (Ret) Carlos Guernaty Villalobos has been appointed member of the State Council. He replaces air force Gen Renato Garcia Vergara who died just recently. [PY051144 Santiago Chile EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Feb 82 p C3 PY]

BRITISH WARSHIP PURCHASED--The Chilean navy has made the missile-launching destroyer Norfolk of the Royal British navy part of its fleet. The ship put out to sea from Portsmouth today heading toward Chile. The Norfolk will join the Chilean navy late in March. The Chilean navy is also interested in acquiring the oil tanker support ship Tidepool, which will soon leave Britain. The Norfolk is a 6,200-ton destroyer, 153 meters long. It is equipped with missiles, conventional weapons and has facilities for helicopter operations. The destroyer operates with a crew of 471 men. The Tidepool was built in 1973, weighs 18,900 tons and is 177 meters long. [Text] [PY180052 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Feb 82]

NEW PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADOR--President Augusto Pinochet has approved the appointment of Favio Rivas Araujo as the new Paraguayan ambassador to Chile. [PY121556 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 2216 GMT 9 Feb 82 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA--The Venezuelan Government has approved the appointment of Carlos de Costa Nora as new Chilean ambassador to that country. [PY121556 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 2153 GMT 10 Feb 82 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN--The Japanese Government has approved the appointment of Eduardo Bravo Woodhouse as new Chilean ambassador to that country. Ambassador Bravo will replace Gen Cesar Ruiz Danyau. [PY121556 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 2246 GMT 8 Feb 82 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA--The South African Government has approved the appointment of Gen Luis Joaquin Ramirez Pineda as new Chilean ambassador to that African nation. [PY121556 Santiago Chile LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 30 Jan 82 p 4 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTRY APPOINTMENT--(Hernan Sanchez Bonner) has been appointed director of the Foreign Ministry protocol department. He replaces Ricardo Letelier. [PY161217 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Feb 82 PY]

CSO: 3010/1047

'FUERZAS ARMADAS' ELECTION APPEAL TO CITIZENS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Feb 82 pp 1, 3

[Text] Yesterday the armed forces asked the people not to allow themselves to be intimidated by threats being made for the purpose of obstructing the electoral process and assured them that any attempt to use violence against persons or sabotage or fraud will be repressed with the full force of the law.

This pronouncement was made in an editorial in the current issue of the periodical FUERZAS ARMADAS [Armed Forces] which, under the title "The Electoral Contest," says the following: "The structural basis of the representative democratic system is the participation of the masses in the selection of government officials and of the legislators who will make the laws, compliance with which is obligatory, in the people's name and for the good of all the politically organized community. The participation of the popular will is expressed in universal suffrage which in turn is the most eloquent and objective expression of democracy.

"But in order for this process, better known as the electoral contest, to be fully valid, each and every citizen who by his vote should participate decisively in the running of the state must have absolute freedom to vote, free from any force or coercion, domestic or foreign, phsyical or moral.

"Colombia, as a democratic nation, has called elections to be held next 14 March and 16 May to choose officials of the national government, departments and municipalities and the president of the republic. This electoral contest must be clean, not only because that is the very essence of the system but also because it is the government's firm determination to guarantee for all Colombians the free exercise of their suffrage.

"Under the Colombian legal system, the armed forces are responsible for the defense of national sovereignty and the nation's institutions. To guarantee free turnover in these institutions, our constitution provides that the armed forces have no power of decision and its members may not vote; that is, the members of the armed forces must remain on the sidelines of the electoral contest and remain absolutely impartial and watchful in order to insure the free exercise of the political rights of our fellow citizens.

"The time when our armed forces participated actively in the political life of the republic belongs to the past--which was, to be sure, a dark one--of civil strife.

Present realities identify them with the welfare of all their fellow citizens and not with that of one group of faction alone. The constitution wisely places them on the lofty plane of the national interest, and for this reason they have become incorruptible sentinels of the people's will expressed at the polls, of the supreme values of democracy for which our founding fathers and liberators fought heroically shaping Colombia with their blood and their swords and writing the most glorious pages of our history. We, the members of the military and police establishments, are now carrying on the struggle.

"We are not going to be unworthy of such a sublime legacy, nor wanting in military discipline, the mainstay of our institution. Even less will we betray the destiny of the fatherland which imposes on us the noble mission of guaranteeing the protection of democracy and the sublime duty of fighting till our last breath for all that it means to Colombia.

"As custodians of the sacred heritage of national sovereignty and the internal security of the nation, those of us who proudly bear the national arms, send our voice of encouragement to all our country men of goodwill not to allow themselves to be intimidated by threats being made for the purpose of obstructing the successful unfolding of the electoral contest. We assure you that any attempt to use violence against persons or sabotage or fraud will be repressed with the full force of the law.

"Soldiers and police have fully demonstrated to the nation, to Latin America and to the world their patriotism, their professional efficiency and ability to fight in defense of the legally constituted power and the national sovereignty. This beautiful national patrimony we offer to our fellow citizens as sufficient guarantee that they may freely vote subject only to the dictates of their own consciences."

9204

CSO: 3010/930

PROFESSOR SUSPECTED OF RED BRIGADES MEMBERSHIP

Membership Denied

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 3 Feb 82 pp 1-A, 9-A

[Interview with suspected Red Brigade member Leandro Barozzi by correspondent Jairo Ortiz Campo, in the Cali office of EL ESPECTADOR, 1 February 1982]

[Text] Cali, 2 February--An Italian citizen, Leandro Barozzi, accused of being a member of the Red Brigades and supposed to have participated in the kidnaping of Aldo Moro, maintained yesterday that he will report to the Colombian authorities to explain his situation, because he trusts the impartiality of the Supreme Court.

In an interview granted to this correspondent, Barozzi denied being a member of the Red Brigades and said that he has nothing to do with the acts attributed to him. He also revealed that, because he is a friend of Antonio Negri, there is an attempt to involve him in that terrorist group, in order to obtain his extradition for the purpose of being sentenced.



Leandro Barozzi who is being sought in Italy, accused of belonging to the Red Brigades.

He flatly denied having tried to flee, because he stated: "I have enough confidence in Colombian justice with regard to the extradition process. I am ready to report to the Colombian authorities as long as I am certain of the legal-political impartiality of the Colombian State."

Moreover, it was flatly denied yesterday that the Supreme Court of Justice does not have in its possession the request for extradition from the Italian Embassy. According to what was ascertained, the papers reached the criminal appeal division of the court as early as Tuesday of last week, but this newspaper refrained from publishing it while awaiting confirmation of several facts.

The Interview

Leandro Barozzi, professor in engineering, 38 years old and born in Rome (Italy), whom the authorities of that country are seeking at present because of his supposed participation in activities of the Red Brigades. For this reason, the Embassy of Italy in Colombia has requested extradition.

Barozzi arranged a meeting with this reporter in the offices of EL ESPECTADOR in Cali, in order to make an account-statement of what, according to him, has happened to him since the Rome authorities issued an arrest warrant against him. At the same time he attributed the search and now the request for his extradition made of the Colombian authorities by the Embassy of Italy in Colombia to matters predominantly of a political nature.

Statement

Nervous because of a possible arrest, without first being able to talk with an attorney, fearing that he would be arrested and sent immediately to Rome where, he pointed out, his trial is being prepared, which he regarded as a "conspiracy," because, he noted, at no time has he had anything to do with the activities of the Red Brigades terrorist group in Italy, Leandro Barozzi started the dialogue.

"I am not a member of the Red Brigades. I have never had anything to do with any person in that terrorist group and I waged a battle against terrorist activities precisely in a Rome newspaper for which I wrote," Leandro Barozzi stated with his natural Italian accent as he smoked a cigarette.

"The Italian police are looking for me, but for definitely political questions. They are not seeking me because of robbery, kidnaping, homicide, terrorism, and so on. Moreover, I am in Colombia with an official visa. I did not obtain it with bribes or influence. The passport and the visa are clean," the Italian added.

Account

"But, then, concretely, why are the Rome authorities looking for you and why is there a warrant out for your arrest?" this reporter asked him. Leandro Barozzi stated his point of view as follows:



Facsimile of Leandro Barozzi's diploma accrediting him as a sanitary engineer, a copy of which is among the documents that he submitted for his contract as a professor in the University of El Valle.

"I was part of the list of writers for a periodical called ROSSO (RED, in English). It was a legal periodical that circulated with authorization by the court of Milan and at no time was it a question of an underground publication. When I began to write articles, this periodical had already been in circulation for 5 years, and then it was regarded as a movement periodical that attempted to gather the behavior of young Italians in the years 1975 and 1978, which, as everyone knows, were the hardest years for our country. But the periodical had nothing to do with the Red Brigades. I engaged in politics,

but very different from terrorism. And we made up a group that criticized the 'illegality of masses.' which, in Spanish, is like censuring those who do not pay for their electricity service, trespass on privately owned land or conduct strikes in front of factory facilities," Barozzi stated, and added:

"I wrote for 3 years in that periodical. In addition, I was very friendly with the major person involved in the 7 April 1979 trial, that is to say the trial of Prof Antonio Negri, who was full professor of state doctrine in the University of Padua. They arrested him on 7 April 1979, accusing him of having planned the Red Brigades and of being their leader and the direct perpetrator of Aldo Moro's kidnaping. I can tell you, by the way, that I knew the professor like a brother and that he had nothing to do with that."

Details

"Then, what is the origin of the assumption that you are involved in this whole process and what do you intend to do now that the Italian Embassy has requested your extradition of the Ministry of Foreign Relations?" the writer asked.

Leandro Barozzi stated the following in detail: "First, because I was writing in the periodical ROSSO. Second, because of my friendship with Prof Antonio Negri, and, third, because of the testimony of a 'repentant' terrorist, like Carlo Fiorone, who is being tried in Italy for homicide, kidnaping and other crimes and who has been informed by the authorities that they will lower his sentence, if he makes names of enemies of the state or members of the Red Brigades known.

"Then, my friendship with Antonio Negri became, in the mouth of the 'repentant' terrorist, Carlo Fiorone, close to the top leaders of the terrorist organization. In that whole trial, which the Italian authorities are pursuing on the 7 April affair and which consists of some 15,000 pages, there barely are two small lines on Leandro Barozzi and they have been sufficient for issuing a warrant for my arrest for insurrection.

"Moreover, no member of the Red Brigades escapes abroad or lives in other countries. And, on my part, I state that the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) called me 3 months ago and interrogated me on whether or not I was carrying on political activity in Colombia. I answered them with a categorical no, because it is true. The point is that, after this interrogation, the DAS gave me a certificate of good conduct that I needed for renewing my visa."

Fugitive?

And how did this whole 'nightmare' begin for Leandro Barozzi who cannot return to Italy, whose extradition has been requested by the embassy of that country in Colombia so that he can stand trial and then--according to him--have to serve a 15-year sentence, who practically does not know now what to do or where to go out of fear that he will be sent to Rome without first having talked with an attorney who will defend him?

According to Leandro Barozzi's account, it all started, as he remarked at the beginning, when he was on vacation in Luxembourg (Federal Republic of Germany

[sic]), after he had served as a teacher in a Rome high school. At that time, his parents informed him, from Rome, that he was being sought diligently by the Authorities in Rome and that an arrest warrant and an "arrest summons" had been issued against him as part of the famous 7 April case.

"Because I had little money in Luxembourg, I bought the cheapest air ticket to some Latin American country. It was then that I arrived at Bogota and later at Cali. I have been living here for a year and a half. A year ago, I began to work in the University of El Valle, until 1500 hours Monday afternoon, when the students, who esteem me much, asked me for details on the news published in EL ESPECTADOR in that day's issue, in addition to several radio news items."

What Is Coming

In the opinion of Leandro Barozzi, he practically "expected" this to happen, but, he pointed out, in "other terms." He stated that he should like to make his defense before his country's authorities, but he pointed out that at least they would sentence him to 6 or 10 years, "all because I have my political philosophy, but at no time because I belong to any terrorist group, or have committed a crime, because all that is false, precisely because I do not agree with terrorism," Barozzi said.

In his dialogue with this reporter, on Monday night, in the editorial offices of EL ESPECTADOR, Leandro Barozzi, who pointed out his "experience" and "activities" as a newsman, emphasized that he would have liked to stay in Cali, to work calmly in the university, where he has friends, in his attempt to "forget" the nightmare that it has fallen his lot to live.

Leandro Barozzi had come to an agreement with this reporter that no photographs would be taken of him. This was complied with for producing this article. He stated that he does not know "what is coming." DAS in this city, through several officials with whom this reporter talked, says that it is going ahead with an investigation in this connection. Barozzi stated that DAS has his address and telephone number and knows where he works. There is expectation in the University of El Valle and more specifically where Barozzi taught sanitary engineering. The rector's office, in turn, announces the issuance of a communique in the next few hours in this connection. Barozzi says that he will go to the university to give his students an examination. Morning radio news broadcasts state that Leandro Barozzi left for Bogota.

When Barozzi took leave, he stated that he will report to the Colombian authorities to clarify the situation, but after having talked with an attorney. Nervousness and even some sadness were observed on his face.

Summary

According to Leandro Barozzi, there are accusations on Prof Antonio Negri, because he was serving as professor of state doctrine, in addition to the fact that he was a political researcher. Therefore, now the testimony of those whom Barozzi called "repentant" has been used to keep Negri in prison, in addition to the fact that all the assistants and members of the Department of State Doctrine in the University of Padua have been arrested under accusation of armed insurrection.

Barozzi also maintained that by keeping Prof Antonio Negri in prison an attempt is being made to discredit 10 years of political struggle by this professor of political science. Barozzi pointed out that Negri is known internationally for his philosophy, ideas and messages.

Barozzi emphasized the fact that it was precisely his great friendship with Prof Antonio Negri that led to the issuance of a warrant for his arrest, because, he said, even his assistants and other associates in the department of political doctrine have been arrested by the authorities for supposed complicity.

Suspect Disappears

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Feb 82 pp 1-A, 6-A

[Text] An Italian citizen, Leandro Barozzi, accused of terrorism and membership in the Red Brigades in Italy, disappeared yesterday in the city of Cali in what appears to be the beginning of living underground.

Barozzi, an instructor in the Department of Chemical and Biological Processes in the Division of Engineering of the University of El Valle, had not reported as of 1700 hours yesterday, to the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Relations, in Bogota, or to the Administrative Department of Security, or to the diplomatic representative of his country in the capital of the Republic, as he had announced in the University of El Valle, according to a dispatch from the EL TIEMPO correspondent in Cali, Alvaro Caicedo.

The accusations against Barozzi published in the press alerted the supposed terrorist who had sufficient time to plan and execute an escape that seems to have been carried off without any trouble, together with his wife Lanci.

On the other hand, in Bogota, the national director of DAS [Administrative Department of Security, Dr Manuel Guillermo Silva, told EL TIEMPO that Leandro Barozzi was legally a resident on Colombian territory.

Barozzi entered the country at the city of Ipiales and was registered as a resident alien in the Cali section office of the DAS. There, in accordance with the administrative procedure of that institution, Barozzi appears in the files with his photograph that Cali was requested to send yesterday by the DAS director.

All the sources consulted yesterday by EL TIEMPO stated the belief that Barozzi is already outside Colombia. In fact, it is regarded as unlikely that the Italian will report to his country's embassy where he is accused of membership in the Red Brigades and acts of terrorism.

It is also unlikely that he will make himself available to the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Relations or to the Administrative Department of Security, because Barozzi has had an opportunity to learn, through news items in the press, about a supposed extradition request submitted by Italy to the government of Colombia.

Possession Without Requirements

Leandro Barozzi took over his post as instructor in the Department of Chemical and Biological Processes in the Division of Engineering of the University of El Valle without fulfilling the basic requirements in this kind of work.

According to what a reliable source told EL TIEMPO, there is no resume or photograph of the supposed terrorist and Italian Red Brigade member. When Barozzi took possession of his post, requirements such as recommendations and personal references were also omitted.

What Barozzi Is Like

Cali, 2 February (By Alvero Caicedo)--Leandro Barozzi, the Italian citizen accused of belonging to the Red Brigades, went underground after announcing in the University of El Valle that he would go to Bogota to report to his country's embassy.

Neither the diplomatic mission, nor the Ministry of Foreign Relations, nor the DAS in Bogota had received a visit yesterday by the enigmatic foreigner.

Barozzi signed a contract as instructor in the Department of Engineering of the University of El Valle on 15 March 1981. He was assigned to the section of Chemical and Biological Processes of the Division of Engineering.

Jose Gers, secretary of the university, said that the post held by Barozzi has not been filled again, because the Italian's contract is effective until 15 March of this year and there are no charges against him justifying his dismissal.

Gers stated to EL TIEMPO that Barozzi, born in Rome on 7 August 1943, is a man of youthful appearance, talented and excellent as a teacher.

He usually dresses like the students in the university: in shirt sleeves and with a knapsack in which books and documents are carried. He always appeared to be calm and never gave rise to suspicions on possible political inclinations. According to Gers, Barozzi was never involved in any kind of student agitation. All this in spite of the fact that it fell his lot to experience difficult times in the university, obliging the academic authorities to take special measures. There never was an accusation against him.

Barozzi, married to a lady named Lanci, graduated in 1969 as a chemical engineer. He had several jobs in Milan between 1962 and 1969.

When he disappeared mysteriously in the city of Cali, he had his residence in apartment 303, Block 36, of the Santiago Residence Unit in Cali, in the southern part of the city. This housing complex is occupied by middle-class families.

Barozzi's salary was modest, according what several persons said, but he had enough to survive decently, because he was economical in his expenditures and did have to lay out much.

Barozzi's telephone did not answer yesterday. It is believed that the man decided to flee with his wife, because he had no children. The neighbors know little about his life, because he was homeloving and did not go beyond the daily greeting.

Jose Gers said finally: "We hope that he will come back to the university."

10,042

CSO: 3010/835

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT SOUGHT IN EL CERREJON PROJECT

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Feb 82 p 13A

[Article by Jaime Horta D.]

[Text] Colombian engineers and the Colombian Chamber of Construction [CAMACOL] have requested the consortium CARBOCOL [Colombian Coal Company, Inc.]-INTERCOR to give them preferential treatment as participants in developmental projects for the exploitation of the El Cerrejon coal fields.

Guillermo Gomez Estrada, president of CAMACOL, disclosed that the leadership of the labor union and of the engineers have expressed to the consortium concern over the fact that a foreign firm was selected as the main contractor and this has given rise to the fear that a similar policy will be followed in the construction of the various works.

Gomez Estrada said, "The request we are making is based on the fact that we consider it necessary and important, in the construction of the entire mining complex and its subsequent operation, that special treatment, priority treatment, be given to Colombian building firms and industries so that the development of El Cerrejon will contribute to their growth and consolidation."

He added that if the scheduling of the projects and the awarding of contracts allow enough time so that Colombian firms and industries can make the necessary investments to acquire the specific equipment required, it will not be necessary to import such equipment or to award contracts to foreigners.

CARBOCOL and INTERCOR--the latter a subsidiary of Exxon of the United States--will exploit the northern area of El Cerrejon and will extract up to 15 million tons of coal yearly under the terms of a contract which provides for overall investments of about US \$3 billion (about 180 billion Colombian pesos).

The position of the construction people with regard to the implementation of the contract was outlined by the president of CAMACOL as reported below:

[Question] Why are you dissatisfied with the El Cerrejon project? What are you afraid of?

[Answer] No. I do not think that any Colombian can feel dissatisfied because a project such as that of El Cerrejon is being developed. It will undoubtedly open

the door for the future development of Colombia due to the influx of a large amount of foreign exchange which will be spread around among all our economic activities.

[Question] Then, what is the objection or request being made by the builders and engineers?

[Answer] Our uneasiness and the request which we the Colombian builders, engineers and industrialists are making are based on the fact that we consider it necessary and important, in the construction of the entire mining complex and its later exploitation, that special treatment, priority treatment, be given to Colombian construction firms and industries so that the development of El Cerrejon will contribute to their growth and consolidation. Our main worry is due to the fact that Morrison Knudsen, a foreign firm, an American firm, was chosen as the primary contractor for the project. This has given rise to the fear, in principle, that a similar policy will be followed in the construction of the various individual works. However, it is worth noting that during a recent meeting of CAMACOL with the manager of CARBOCOL and the president of INTERCOR, these latter persons clearly stated the CABOCOL-INTERCOR consortium's desire and decision to use to the greatest extent and in every way possible the technical capability of our building enterprises and of our industries, given them preferential treatment.

[Question] From this may we conclude that there has been discrimination against Colombian enterprises?

[Answer] No, because the process has just begun.

[Question] What capability do Colombian firms have in the development and implementation of El Cerrejon projects such as the railroad or the port?

[Answer] I would venture to say, with full certainty, that if the scheduling of the projects and the awarding of contracts allow enough time so that the Colombian firms and industries can make the necessary investments to acquire the specific equipment required and adapt their factories to the large-scale production of articles not in common demand in Colombia, it will at no time be necessary to think of the necessity or possibility of importing equipment for El Cerrejon except for some very specialized products not manufactured in Colombia. It is even less necessary to bring in international construction firms except for the dredging of the port, an activity in which Colombian engineering not demonstrable experience.

[Question] As to the port, are the Colombians capable of building it?

[Answer] With the above-mentioned exception, all other works such as docks, warehouses, and so forth are projects which can be carried out by Colombian construction firms.

[Question] To what extent have Colombian firms participated up to now?

[Answer] Up to now, the most important aspect of the projects which has been carried out is the construction of several highways by Colombian construction firms.

I want to stress the necessity of knowing in advance the scheduling of the projects and the awarding of contracts. This is because, if time is not allowed for making in advance the investments required to carry out a given project or to manufacture a specific piece of equipment, we could fall into a position in which the preference and priority given to Colombian construction firms and industries would be pointless simply because they, due to the short period allowed to carry out the contract, would be physically unable to carry it out if the project were awarded to them.

[Question] Does CAMACOL have any remark to make on the El Cerrejon contract?

[Answer] Our concern is over the implementation of the projects. I do not believe it is advantageous to continue sterile discussions as to whether or not the awarding of the contract to INTERCOR is to Colombia's advantage. We believe that this is an accomplished fact which will open the door for the future development of Colombia. The concern of CAMACOL and other very important labor unions such as FEDMETAL [Colombian Metallurgical Federation] and ANDI [National Industrialists Association] is with regard to the future of El Cerrejon in the sense that the maximum use should be made of the Colombian industrial and construction capabilities. As to CAMACOL--a position of which is shared by other labor unions working with us on this task--we want to become the leaders and tireless fighters in defense of Colombian engineering and industries. During the meeting which I mentioned we requested very respectfully but frankly of the CARBOCOL and INTERCOL representatives that sufficient advance notice be given not only of the scheduling and awarding of contracts, as has already been said, but also--and as early as possible--the procedures for calling for bids, the eligibility system, number of participants, and so forth and the system for awarding contracts and choice of the winning enterprise. We also offered the consortium CAMACOL's services to inform the various industries and construction enterprises about all these regulations and all that is considered advisable and necessary for them to know and for the general public to know. Besides, we proposed, so as to eliminate doubts as to the implementation of the contract by Morrison Knudsen and to serve as a guarantor of the expressed desire of INTERCOR-CARBOCOL to give preference to Colombians, that they study the possibility of having CAMACOL oversee the various processes of calling for bids and awarding the contracts.

9204

CSO: 3010/930

U.S. BLAMED FOR IRANIAN INTERNAL PROBLEMS

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Sep 81 p 21

[Commentary by Irma Caceres]

[Text] Today's Iran, which has been stirred by complex internal and external situations, has moved beyond the days in 1979 when one of the world's oldest monarchies was overthrown and the Islamic Republic was established under the guidance of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

The effervescence of those days plunged the nation into a sort of intoxication shared by its people, 36 million inhabitants. Now Iran has moved from the popular euphoria of those days to a present characterized by political clashes and the tremendous wave of assassinations during the last 18 months.

Along with the intensification of the presidential campaign in July, there came an increase in the number of attacks against offices and leaders of the government and of the Islamic clergy, such as the attack against the PRI [Party of the Islamic Republic] last June, which caused the death of 73 political and religious leaders.

At the same time, arrests have been on the increase, and 300 people have been executed, charged with infidelity to the regime and with involvement in counterrevolutionary activities or with helping Iran's foreign enemies.

The departure of President Abul-Hassan Bani-Sadr from Iran after he was removed from office for "infidelity to Islam" and his later asylum in France brought speculation to new heights. Stories grew up about the differences in opinion dividing Ayatollah Khomeyni and the fundamentalists from Bani-Sadr and other persons described as liberals, with close ties to the state power structure. This state structure has been shaken by political, economic, and social problems, and by a war with Iraq that has gone on for nearly a year now.

As a rejection of centuries of colonial or imperial exploitation, some oppressed peoples, including the Iranian people, have found the practice of Islam to be a unifying factor which has served as a foundation for their struggle against national oppression.

This Islamic unity grew even stronger during the final phase of the struggle against the overthrown Shah and his North American allies, and it helped to rid Iran of the Pahlevi monarchy, but at the same time, some strong internal contradictions have emerged, dividing the victors. These internal contradictions have continued to deepen as the nation has had to face difficult situations both at home and with its enemies abroad.

The political and economic situation left by the Pahlevi monarchy called for measures which Imam Khomeyni promised to apply in accordance with the teachings of Islam, according to which "governing means making Koranic law (the civil code) effective." This means "divine laws obeyed and executed by all, without exception and without protest." Such orthodox pronouncements have not been accepted by some sectors of the population.

The war raging between neighboring Iraq and Iran since September 1980 has again caused all national interests to join forces around the Imam and the nation has managed to resist, despite its shortage of supplies of light and heavy weapons and munitions. These supplies had been bought and paid for by the old regime from the United States and Great Britain, but those two governments have failed to deliver the supplies to Iran.

In addition to the battle in the south against the Iraqi Army, there is also the struggle in the north against Kurdish separatists, and armed uprisings in the other end of the country in the Sistan-Baluchistan area, led by tribal or feudal chiefs. According to information obtained from the French press, the war on all fronts has already cost Iran some 30,000 lives and billions of dollars, in a country whose economy is already in serious trouble.

The French paper LE MONDE recently stated that "Iran's international reserves are melting away like butter left out in the sun." From a level of \$6 billion in January, Iran's reserves had dropped to \$4 billion by July, the lowest level since the revolution, despite the export of 1.4 million barrels of oil a day, bringing in between \$16 and \$18 billion a year.

When the majority of Iran's parties and groups came out from underground when the monarchy was overthrown, they felt that the presence of the clergy in the government leadership was not

in contradiction with the democratic nature of the revolution, despite the varied trends within the Shi'ite Moslem religion, in power in the Islamic world for the first time.

As the Iranian economy has continued to deteriorate, the tangle of internal contradictions has grown even more complicated, with the many statements made by supporters of the PRI (fundamentalists, divided into orthodox and conservative factions), by liberal bourgeois elements, Moudhajidins of the people, communists, the Kurdish Party, and other varied groups which the government has branded leftists.

The situation has become even more complicated since the attack in June on the headquarters of the Islamic Party. A number of leaders have accused enemies of the fundamentalists of this deed, saying, "the liberals are the rightist face of hypocrisy, and the Moudhajidins the leftist face."

All this has happened in the midst of a climate in which the Islamic Republic has had to deal with maneuvers by the United States, designed to frustrate the Iranian popular movement, and at a time when there have been many reports of CIA involvement in a variety of actions to destabilize the nation internally and to stir up hostilities between different sectors of the population.

Now demands are rising for an agrarian reform and reforms in education, for the nationalization of foreign trade, and other steps to do away with the many after-effects left by the monarchy.

Given the panorama of the present Iranian situation, which the authorities themselves describe as complex, it is not easy to predict the future, even though many political figures have confidence that at least the major contradictions will be resolved, so that the people may achieve their aspirations. For that is why the monarchy was overthrown.

7679

CSO: 3010/953

NATO'S PERSHING, CRUISE MISSILE POLICY CRITICIZED

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Jan 82 p 21

[Commentary by Miguel Roa]

[Text] NATO's winter meeting, held in its headquarters in Brussels, concluded with the ratification of the plans to install in five European countries 572 nuclear missiles made by the United States: the famous Pershing II and Cruise missiles.

So, even with its saccharine statements about its alleged desires for peace, NATO has in fact confirmed its well known principle of negotiating from a position of strength.

This is evident in the agreement reached by NATO's ministers of defense and foreign relations, to support President Ronald Reagan's position on the so-called "zero option" about nuclear weapons in Europe.

But as some eminent military specialists have noted, President Reagan's "zero option" is tantamount to asking the Soviet Union to dismantle its defenses while the United States and its allies leave their nuclear arsenal intact.

Reagan's proposal came a few days before the visit of President Leonid Brezhnev to the Federal Republic of Germany, and after the large and continued demonstrations in Europe against nuclear weapons, especially against the deployment of the Pershing II and Cruise missiles.

European public opinion has been greatly sensitized by such circumstances as the following:

- a. The U.S. decision to produce the neutron bomb, whose declared theater of use is Europe;
- b. The statements of President Reagan about the possibility of a nuclear war limited to the old continent, and;

c. The revelation by the U.S. secretary of state, Alexander Haig, of NATO's plans for a "nuclear warning detonation."

For these reasons, it has been clear from the start that President Reagan's "zero option" was nothing more than an immense propaganda operation, designed to mask his warlike image and to try to calm down the outcry by public opinion.

The alternative offered by the U.S. president is the installation of the Pershing and Cruise missiles, with their deadly warheads aimed toward the Soviet Union and other European socialist countries.

In pointing out that the deployment of these medium-range missiles marks an unacceptable shift in the balance of existing forces, the top Soviet leader underscored the fact that the U.S. proposal is unrealistic and would never be accepted by the Soviet Union.

During his meeting in Bonn with the West German chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, Leonid Brezhnev made proposals that do form a true "zero option." They include a reciprocal moratorium on the installation of new missiles and a ban against any type of nuclear weapons on the European continent.

As a pledge of good will, Chairman Brezhnev offered to remove unilaterally hundreds of nuclear missiles from the European portion of the USSR, if the United States accepts the moratorium and decides to negotiate seriously for the limitation of nuclear weapons in the Geneva talks.

The solidity of the Soviet proposals has been recognized by a number of impartial analysts, and has won these proposals the backing of a number of pacifist forces in Europe.

Clearly, then, the U.S. and NATO plans are going to run up against a number of difficulties before they can be put into practice.

Even during the NATO meeting in Brussels, the foreign minister of Belgium, Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, announced that his country will not install the U.S. nuclear missiles while the Geneva negotiations are in progress, and Hans van Mierlo Holland's defense minister, speaking at NATO, said that the NATO decision to proceed with the installation of these missiles may place an obstacle in the way of the Soviet-U.S. talks.

The statements by both men are of extraordinary importance, as their respective governments, under pressure from the rising internal and continental pacifist movements, still have not definitely promised to accept the U.S. missiles in their territories.

The other nations chosen as missile sites, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Great Britain, have already agreed, but the three must also face the growing protests of their citizens.

Under the conservative government of Margaret Thatcher, Great Britain is the country that has supported the U.S. plans most enthusiastically, and it plans to install 160 Cruise missiles in Great Britain at the end of 1983.

But it is in Great Britain where the U.S. strategy seems doomed to suffer its biggest setback.

Either in 1983 or in early 1984, general elections are to be held in Great Britain, and as, because of her disastrous economic policies, no one expects Mrs Thatcher to win, there is a very good chance that the Labour Party will be called upon to form a government.

As is well known, under the leadership of Michael Foot, the major British opposition party has spoken out resolutely against the installation of the Pershing and Cruise missiles, and has promised that, if there is a Labour victory, the United Kingdom will proceed with unilateral nuclear disarmament.

The U.S. secretary of defense, Caspar Weinberger, said in Brussels that the United States will continue without interruption its plans to produce the Pershing II and Cruise missiles, independently of the Geneva negotiations.

This is equivalent to admitting that, while it speaks of peace and detente, the United States in reality is accelerating the arms race and is preparing itself for a confrontation.

7679

CSO: 3010/953

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL BOARD LOSSES--Roseau, Dominica, Tuesday (CANA)--The state-run Dominica Agricultural Marketing Board lost some EC\$123 000 (EC\$1 equal 37 cents US) during 1981, its general manager, R.K. Shukla, said. Mr. Shukla attributed the board's performance to a lack of capital which he said had prevented it from maintaining regular shipments to overseas markets. He said that in the past, government used to subsidise the board, but that under a EC\$37 million loan agreement the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the administration it was stipulated that all such assistance to state-run agencies be stopped to encourage these operations to support themselves. Under those circumstances, Mr. Shukla added, the little pre-IMF assistance received from the government was not enough to bail out the board entirely from its problems. But he said in a radio interview that the outlook for 1982 looked bright because shipping arrangements had improved, in addition to the fact that the board would be receiving two loans--one amounting to EC\$35 000 from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the other totalling EC\$460 000 from the Trinidad and Tobago loan facility. Part of the latter, Mr. Shukla said, would go towards the renovation of the marketing board's headquarters. The marketing board here purchases fruits and food from local farmers for export to neighbouring islands. [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Feb 82 p 3]

CSO: 3025/195

WORKERS AT ZONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 13 Feb 82 p 2

[Article by Vivian Philbert]

[Text] THE establishment of more co-operative enterprises, growing and eating local foods, modernising agriculture and educating and training more farmers in scientific practices, and cutting back on the importation of various foods which Grenada can produce economically, were among the major proposals made at zone council meetings on the economy Thursday, at La Digue and Birch Grove in St. Andrew's and in Concord in St. John's.

All three meetings began with a presentation by an official from the Ministry of Finance looking into the country's economic performance over the past three years and the projections for this year.

Following this, the meetings broke up into workshops with technocrats from the Finance Ministry and other ministries discussing this year's budget with the

people, answering questions on the economy and accepting proposals for greater efficiency of the various economic enterprises.

Each workshop had a recording secretary noting the proposals and requests which will be forwarded to the Ministry for consideration with a view of incorporating them in the final budget and plan for this year.

Farmers expressed concern about the high prices of farming implements and suggested that the PRG should do something to lower the prices as a means of encouraging agricultural production. One farmer pointed out that praedial larceny, which is on the increase, is a discouraging factor, and suggested that measures should be taken to curb it.

People in and around La Digue expressed concern about the roads and the quality of the water

in Richmond, Union and Plaisance. The bad roads, they pointed out, are a hindrance to agricultural development, especially bananas, which are easily damaged during transit. They felt that if the roads, especially the feeder roads, were repaired, farmers would be encouraged to farm the land.

One teacher pointed out that maintenance was one problem with roads. He cited an example in La Digue where a piece of road was newly-repaired, but because of poor drainage, began cracking and breaking up.

There was a small argument on the need for a banana boxing plant in La Digue. Some felt one

was needed, while others felt it was uneconomical, since nearby Birch Grove and Mirabeau already have boxing plants.

Workshop participants all had a copy of Finance Minister Bernard Coard's marathon address on the economy given at the recent delegates conference at Grand Anse. They will study the document with a view to coming up with further proposals.

At the end of the La Digue meeting, one person observed that it makes no sense building the economy without talking about defence. "We have to defend economic construction," he said.

Zone council meetings on the economy will continue throughout next week.

BRIEFS

COCOA BONUSES--The Grenada Cocoa Association (GCA) will this month pay out a record \$5 million bonus to cocoa farmers throughout the country. It is the largest cocoa bonus payout in the island's history. This was disclosed in a press conference Thursday by Deputy Finance Minister and chairman of the Cocoa Board, Lyden Ramdhanny, who pointed out that, despite the large sum, individual farmers will receive 10 cents less on each pound sold, because of a slump in the world market price. The large payout is due to an overall increase in local cocoa production over the past year. Against the background of economic depression in advanced Western capitalist countries and a decrease in the British pound sterling's exchange rate, Bro. Ramdhanny announced that the GCA was forced to reduce the advanced price of cocoa. The world market price for cocoa, Bro. Ramdhanny said, has dropped from \$4.05 to \$3.24, while \$1.40 is lost through the decrease in the exchange rate of the pound sterling, Grenada's main trading currency. This means that, in cocoa sales, some \$5.6 million would be lost in a one-year period. Therefore, grade I cocoa has been reduced from \$1.40 per lb. to \$1.20; grade 2: from \$1.30 to \$1.10; and wet cocoa from 54 cents to 45 cents. The new prices will be effective from March 1. Coupled with the economic crises in the West European countries, the main buyers of the island's cocoa, Bro. Ramdhanny revealed that there is a glut on the market which itself has an adverse effect on prices. Hence, this new price cut, he said, will also help retain a fair amount of money in the GCA's reserve fund, from which bonuses and other expenses are paid out. [Excerpt] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 13 Feb 82 p 1]

TRAWLERS FROM CUBA--St George's Grenada Sunday (CANA)--Grenada's leftist People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) has announced new aid from Cuba for the local fisheries sector. Four fishing trawlers are due here shortly as gifts to the PRG from Havana. The government-controlled "Radio Free Grenada" said this would bring to 10 the number of fishing boats given to Grenada by Communist Caribbean island since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1979. The radio also reported that 16 Cuban fishermen were coming with the boats for a nine-month period, during which they would train Grenadian fishermen in new fishing methods. [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 Feb 82 p 1]

RIGHT WING CANDIDATES UNITE AGAINST FDP

Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Jan 82 p 18

[Text] The electoral politics of Guatemala is currently experiencing a not so strange coincidence. Candidates of the three contending parties have decided to launch a full-scale attack against the Popular Democratic Front and in particular against its candidates, Gen Anibal Guevara and the attorney, Ramiro Ponce Monroy. The three groups are acting in unison, like a great orchestra directed by a maestro, all of them using the same phraseology.

The unified campaign of the three candidates and their leaders has not come as any surprise to the FDP. And it has not been a surprise because the philosophical base, the basis for slogans and the general orientation of that recalcitrant right wing is the reason for the defense of the same interest.

The FDP Alone Against Everyone

The portrait of the current campaign is a clear one; all against one. And this whole is broken down into four political parties; three of them of absolute right wing tradition and one which has recently been calling itself leftist but which is of right wing origin and which has been embraced by those who now shelter it.

The FDP, its leaders, its candidates for popular posts and public opinion in general know that which is now affirmed and also in whose favor the scales are tipped next March 7th.

Campaign Without Insults or Accusations

Since the beginning, when the election campaign of the FDP and its candidates, Gen Anibal Guevara and the attorney Ramiro Ponce Monroy was launched, it was clearly stated, "We will not wage a campaign of insults and accusations, but instead we will travel throughout the country with our message of peace and harmony and explain the details of our work plan." And two months later, it was repeated, "In the face of insults and accusations of which we have been victims...we will allow our kind opponents to exude their venom, but we will continue in our zeal to wage a campaign at a patriotic and prudent level."

"But neither will we be able to receive cowardly blows and turn the other cheek. If everyone is against us, we must respond with truth to those who attack, slander and insult us. We will see what the future brings."

GOVERNMENT STIPULATES SUGAR PRODUCTION

Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Jan 82 p 4

[Text] Sugar production was set at 10,700,000 quintals for 1981-82 by the Ministry of Economy, according to information released in Resolution 14-82 issued by that office on the 8th of this month.

To this effect, the 16 mills in operation at various locations in the country must produce 5,302,398 quintals for internal consumption and 5,047,602 quintals for export.

Furthermore, according to the resolution, reserve standards must be met in the amount of 350,000 quintals in accordance with Article 46 of the International Sugar Agreement (special stocks).

The resolution stipulates that the Association of Sugar Refiners of Guatemala is charged with evaluating the production goal no later than February 23rd of this year, and after that date, the association must report monthly to the Ministry of Economy via the National Commission on Sugar and its By-Products, in its role of evaluator of all aspects of the national sugar economy, for the purpose of determining how well the goal is being carried out and met.

The Ministry of Economy also warns that it is the duty of the mills to meet their quotas in an orderly fashion, and if deficits should occur, they must be balanced in proportion to the previously mentioned markets.

The same stated that the distribution of the deficit shall be made in accordance with the provisions of ministerial agreement 41 of 26 May 1972. The ministry added that if the production goal is met and there are additional stocks of sugarcane, the mills can, subject to the authorization of the Association of Sugar Refiners, produce additional quantities of sugar in the proportion of one quintal of white sugar to two quintals of sugar for export.

Finally, the aforementioned department stated that in order to carry out an orderly harvest and meet the required production and sales quotas for sugar and molasses, the above-mentioned association is authorized to establish the necessary legal measures in order to meet the above goals, providing information regarding the progress of the harvest to the department on a monthly basis or more frequently if circumstances warrant it.

9787

CSO: 3010/841

COFFEE PRODUCERS TRY TO PREVENT HUGE LOSSES

Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 Feb 82 p 7

[Text] The National Council on Coffee Production Policy met yesterday morning in the National Palace to search for a solution to the existence of more than 2 million quintals of coffee which would represent the loss of millions if it is not put on the foreign market.

The meeting of the national coffee producers organization took place in the office of the Ministry of Agriculture who heads it, and it lasted for several hours, according to information obtained by PRENSA LIBRE.

The aforementioned organization also includes the ministers of Economy, Finance and Foreign Relations, or when applicable, the vice ministers; the president or vice president of the Bank of Guatemala and the president of the National Coffee Association, ANACAFE.

According to information related to the problem, Guatemala has been accumulating coffee reserves which it has not been able to export because of quota regulations established by the International Coffee Organization, OIC with headquarters in London.

According to figures which have become available to the aforementioned council and which have been provided by ANACAFE, the representative body for coffee producers, the coffee from the 1980-81 harvest that could not be exported under quota regulations, and which for the same reason, would not be exported in the 1981-82 harvest, could reach 2,986,934 quintals.

According to the situation studied in the National Council on Coffee Production Policy, there is only a very restricted consumer market for the Guatemalan coffee outside the quota, which is not included in the limitations imposed by the international coffee agreement.

This restricted consumer market, considered to be a new, rather than a traditional market, is the same one for which the other coffee-producing countries are competing, because like Guatemala, they have coffee reserves which are affected by the quota regulations.

The possibilities for putting the greatest amount of coffee possible into that market which is not affected by the international agreement is dependent on its having a good or competitive sale price, and for this reason, the legislature has been asked to exempt this coffee intended for new markets from export duties.

9787

CSO: 3010/841

PPP ORGAN CHARGES RACIAL IMBALANCE IN MILITARY FORCES

Georgetown MIRROR in English 31 Jan 82 pp 2-3

[Text] Changes have been made in the military including the National Service, the Guyana Defence Force, and the People's Militia. The changes are in the form of promotions. However upon close scrutiny the prevailing racial imbalance in the military and para-military again come to the forefront. It is widely accepted by observers that the GDF is the most brazenly imbalanced force in Guyana, and taking into consideration the ethnic composition of Guyana, it is an example of racial discrimination in the ranks and hierarchy.

A cursory analysis shows that among the 21 promotions in the GNS there is only one person of Indian descent; while among the 45 promotions in the GDF, there are only 3 persons of Indian descent. In the GPM there is one promotion only....that of Colonel C.B.L. Morgan as Commandant with effect from January 1, 1982.

The promotions in the GNS pertain to Assistant Director General; Acting Assistant Directors General; Lieutenants, Substantive and Acting Second Lieutenants.

In the GDF, promotions are for Lieutenant Colonels; Majors; Acting Major; Captains; Lieutenants; Acting Lieutenants; and Second Lieutenant.

Protests have consistently been made about the unsatisfactory composition of the armed forces, but the PNC which dominates them with its hand-picked hacks, turns a deaf ear to the protests. Rural citizens eager to enlist in the People's Militia have failed to get in because of official attitudes and stances not conducive to their entry. Many of those who managed to get in, failed to receive any proper military training and quit in frustration.

Since the Venezuelan border claim became warmed up in 1981 the PNC regime has been beefing up the GDF considerably with many youths barely out of school, some of whom were in the GNS. Both the GNS and GPM are used as recruiting and training channels for the GDF.

The regime has also made top level postings of military men abroad as 'attaches' to Embassies. One has been accredited to Brazil and another to Venezuela.

CSO: 3025/191

BURNHAM, IN MAJOR ADDRESS, PROMISES PROBE OF CORRUPTION

Georgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 25 Feb 82 p 8

[Article by Mike James]

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Wednesday. (CANA) — Guyana has entered its 13th year as a co-operative Socialist Republic with plans to investigate corruption in high places, to raise at least G\$10 million (one Guyana dollar — 33 cents U.S.) to meet any aggression from neighbouring Venezuela, to cut back imports and public sector employment to ease an economic crisis.

President Forbes Burnham made the disclosures Monday night during a flag-raising ceremony at the national park in Georgetown attended by an estimated 25 000 people, including foreign diplomats.

Mr. Burnham said his People's National Congress (PNC) was setting up a committee to investigate allegations, some of which were not unfounded, of corruption, bribery and graft in the party and the nation. The investigators are to be named by March '85.

"This is the moment of truth," he said. "There will be no more pampering and I undertake that I personally, with the assistance of a small team, will be responsible for seeing that what has to be done is done regardless of which corns have to be crushed or little caesars hurt."

The Guyanese leader announced measures to pull the economy out

of trouble, after disclosing that the country's balance of payments deficit was over G\$500 million last year and that economic growth was minus 0.5 per cent.

The measures include a 10 per cent reduction in imports of petroleum products this year and retrenchment in the public sector. Mr. Burnham said government would also try to have agricultural production, including that of rice and edible oil increased, especially for export to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) market.

On the Venezuelan claim to five-eighths of Guyana, Mr. Burnham said the co-operative Socialist Republic would give up "not one curass (a small fish), not one blade of grass."

He told Guyanese "unless we defend our patrimony and hold it there will be nothing to develop. What is at stake is our very survival...we do not envy our neighbours their great liberator, but we too have our hero, an ex-slave. They must not pass (across Guyanese territory), they shall not pass."

He said the Guyana Government would soon be putting "defence bonds" up for sale to the public, with a view of raising an initial G\$10 million to meet Venezuela's

threat of aggression. Venezuela has a long-standing claim to territory west of the Essequibo River. The two sides put the issue on ice for 12 years and Venezuela said it would not have it deferred when the agreement expires later this year.

The Guyana Government has been trying to put the country on a war footing in what it has designated the year of defence.

Senior government officials have been touring the country, explaining why Guyana rejects the claim, and telling nationals some economic sacrifices are necessary if the Republic is to be able to withstand any invasion attempt.

CSO: 3025/196

OVER 50 PPP, GAWU ACTIVISTS ARRESTED, SEARCHED BY POLICE

Weekend Action

Georgetown MIRROR in English 14 Feb 82 pp 1, 4

[Text] Saturday and Sunday, February 6 and 7 were busy days for the Guyana Police Force which made some fifty searches and arrests of PPP and GAWU activists from one end of the country to the other.

Freedom House, Headquarters of the People's Progressive Party received the first knowledge of the spate of searches and arrests when it was informed at about 8 a.m. on Saturday that police had searched the houses of four leading Party activists at Bath Settlement under a party of four policemen and an Inspector. The raid took place at 7:15 a.m.

PPP Organiser Dyaljje was present at Freedom House when he received information that police had entered his apartment at Herstelling. Going there immediately, he discovered that a police search party had entered his living quarters without his authority, and in the process, breaking down a wall. Documents were removed.

Central and Executive member Rohit Persaud, Supervisor of Party Organisation in Berbice telephoned the Assistant Commissioner of Police, New Amsterdam to find out what was going on. He was told that the operation emanated from CID in Georgetown and they were only following directions. The searches, Persaud was told, are for arms and ammunition and for subversive literature. When he asked how the police defined subversive literature, he was informed that the Director of Public Prosecutions had send down directions on that score.

However, a common denominator of most of the fifty-odd searches was that the police raiding parties seemed more interested in documents and collected a wide variety, including membership cards, circulars from Freedom House, Marxist-Leninist literature including Granma, Soviet Weekly, Thunder, Youth Advance, PPP booklets as well as diaries, trade union files and Mirror. No arms and ammunition were seized.

At Bartica, two PPP Councillors were searched, along with two others, with the Councillors being taken to the police station and held for 4 hours, and then released following a lawyer's telephone call from Georgetown.

PPP Organiser George Kisoan, living in West Demerara said that police took away a file dealing with representation for people in the area on community problems, such as old age pensions, petitions for improved water supplies, cleaning trenches, etc.

At Belvedere, two young men were arrested after being searched, and then held in police custody for 24 hours. This was the experience of several of those harassed by police. Many were questioned about their Party activities, their length of membership, their ideological studies, where Party meetings are held, etc.

In Essequibo, after the houses of two leading PPP activists were raided, police grabbed six PYO members who were waiting for a meeting to begin. They were held at the police station for 24 hours, And at Better Hope, ECD, the 16 year old son of a leading GAWU member was arrested by a jeepload of 7 policemen who, after thoroughly searching the house and yard questioned him and carried him to the police station where he was held and questioned again.

Two GAWU organisers, Jewan Janki and John Bacchus, both of West Demerara were searched by police and their GAWU files mainly documents for the upcoming 10th, Congress, were seized.

A common denominator, too, of all the arrests was the fact that the more than 20 arrested were told to report back at the police stations to which they were taken.

GAWU General Secretary Ram Karran has sent a sharp letter of protest to the Commissioner of Police in which he referred to the 'wave of unjustified harassment' which took place and is continuing. He pointed out that employees and officials of his Union were the main targets and whose documents relating to trade union activities had been seized. One member was put on bail to compel his return to the police station, allegedly because no one was available to question him at the time.

Ram Karran informed the Commissioner of Police that the searches were 'obstructing my Union's legitimate activities in the preparation of its 10th Congress' as well as its day to day activities at a time when its pre-crop activities are being conducted, along with activities connected with the Works Council.'

The GAWU General Secretary, in a caustic note said: "As far as I am aware, no such campaign has been mounted to disarm the criminal gangs which harass, maim and murder peaceful citizens in their business, mostly when they are asleep at nights.'

"My Union strongly protests this wave of harassment and seizure of documents which hinder its legitimate activities at a time when the most vicious assaults are being directed at the workers' wages and living standards. I strongly urge the immediate discontinuation of this vulgar interference in the lives of the rural working class."

PPP Denunciation

Georgetown MIRROR in English 14 Feb 82 p 1

[Text] The People's Progressive Party has very strongly condemned the wave of arrests, searches, temporary detentions, and other harassments and intimidatory measures which have been visited on its supporters throughout the country. These flagrant police brutalities and repressions have affected over 50 supporters and militants. The Party, in a press statement said that it feels that these are not only intolerable provocations, but are harbingers of other anti-popular measures to come in 1982.

The PPP categorically rejects any attempt by the cornered PNC regime to implicate it in any sinister clandestine activity or plot being hatched; or to use it as a scapegoat for the plot being hatched; or to use it as a scapegoat for the crumbling economy, or as an excuse to cover up the disastrous political effect of the ongoing power struggle raging in the PNC hierarchy.

The Party takes strong exception to the torturing of its members who are innocent of any crime whatsoever, and denounces the regime's efforts to connect them with arson of state property. The PPP has on several occasions in the past condemned the wave of arson on government property as being connected to organised massive embezzlement and had called in the National Assembly and elsewhere for investigations long before the recent Enmore fire.

The Party strongly deprecates the efforts of the regime to deny its Organising Secretary access to Amerindian areas in the Rupununi after flimsy excuses, and insists that the regime respect the rights of free citizens to travel throughout Guyana and the rights of the Amerindian Community which are being trampled underfoot by the regime. The expulsion of Harry Persaud Nokta from the Rupununi was in breach of the Constitution of the Republic, and is a violation of his human rights.

Hitlerite Reichstag Tactics

The PPP declares that it refuses to accept prime responsibility for the ruined national economy, or for the imminent draconian 1982 Budget soon to be unveiled. The fault is the PNC's. No amount of Hitlerite Reichstag tactics will serve to shift the blame unto the PPP. The coming pressures are already causing deep disquiet in the ranks of organised labour, for thousands are to get the sack, prices and taxes are to rise, imports are to be cut further, subsidies to be reduced or fully removed. It is also likely that another devaluation of the currency will be effected, thereby triggering more price rises and hardships.

It is a foregone conclusion that the Guyanese people will resist in their own way, and the Party will stand by the people come what may. The wave of pre-emptive intimidatory repression unleashed on PPP members will not deter the Party from performing its duty to the people. The Party notes the current efforts of the regime's hierarchs who have fanned out throughout the country "explaining" the economic crisis and who are seeking to engineer TUC acquiescence

for the 1982 Budget hardships in the name of "defence". The regime by its current police measures clearly anticipates strong opposition to its upcoming Budget steeped in massive retrenchment and austerities.

In the current wave of intimidatory police action, the Party considers it absurd for the police to tell their victims that they are looking for "arms and ammunition" and "subversive literature". These cliches have worn thin long ago, and nobody believes them. Party Group documents have been seized however, and arrested persons questioned about their political affiliation and ideological opinions which is a further violation of their human rights.

PNC in Death Throes

The PPP notes that as the base of the regime gets narrower commensurate with its loss of support, the ruling PNC becomes more intolerant, abusive and repressive. In the regime's death throes it will seek to resort to more arrests, violence and assorted police-military measures to retain its grip on the levers of power.

The PPP recalls that a similar wave of police action took place in 1968 and shortly before the signing of the Port-of-Spain Protocol between Guyana and Venezuela. This newest wave is also seen by the Party as part of the regime's efforts to impress the IMF that it is "containing the communists". The IMF strategists would hardly expect that their harsh austerity packages would be digested without strong restraint on the political left and militant organised labour. This therefore is a message which the regime is sending to the IMF hoping thereby (among other objectives) to smooth the way for the drawdown of the huge credits still outstanding and badly needed by the regime to keep afloat in 1982-83.

Hands Off!

By attacking the main opposition force in the country, the regime is seeking to head off any organised powerful campaign to oppose its sell-out policies in 1982 beginning with the IMF-dictated Budget Proposals. The Party says to the regime which is tottering:--Hands off our activists and supporters! Look elsewhere for arsonists, saboteurs, embezzlers, terrorists and assassins! Look inside the PNC for those elements!

Police measures can hardly inspire the "co-operation and unity" which PNC mouthpieces prattle so glibly about all the time and moreso since the disastrous year of 1981. The PPP will not be made a scapegoat for anybody or a sacrificial pawn in the bloody power struggle engulfing the PNC, and will not accept being cast in the role of "chief bogeyman" to influence the IMF, loosen the purse strings of US imperialism, and assure the jittery incumbent in the US White House.

CSO: 3025/191

BRIEFS

VENEZUELAN BOOK ON BORDER--The Venezuelan Embassy and Cultural Centre are now distributing a colouring booklet for schoolchildren entitled "The Life of Simon Bolivar". Schoolchildren, teachers and parents have been collecting this booklet and it is currently in use in a number of schools. The book has a map of South America. This map shows a Venezuela enlarged by the territory they are claiming in Guyana's Essequibo region. Some dotted lines demarcate that area of Guyana which the Venezuelans are contending is theirs. A Ministry of Education spokesman said he knew nothing about the booklet. But he promised to investigate. [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Feb 82 p 16]

PEACE MEETING--At the annual general meeting of the Guyanese-Soviet Friendship Society held on January 24, 1982 at Friendship House, South Road, Georgetown a resolution on peace was passed which sharply condemned the arms build-up unleashed by the Ronald Reagan regime in Washington. The resolution blames the USA for the said and deteriorating state of world tensions today, the crisis in the Middle East, the anxiety in the Caribbean, the fears of West Europeans about their being sacrificial victims of a Third World War; and the intolerable situation in Southern Africa. The resolution also referred to the peace policy and initiatives of the Soviet Union, the powerful peace demonstrations which have rocked Western Europe over the past months, and the need of the peace forces to struggle harder to defeat the arms race, and US aggression around the globe. Strong condemnation was made of the horrible neutron bomb which Reagan has ordered into production and deployment. The meeting also dealt with a number of matters including elections for new office bearers. Sidnauth Singh was re-elected President of the Society for another term, while also re-elected were Treasurer Lawrence Ramsamy, Secretary Komal Chand, and Assistant Secretary Shirley Edwards. First Vice President is Dr. Mohamed Yacoob; with second Vice President being Dr. Royston Anderson. Propaganda Officer is Rohitash Narine. The Committee members are: Dr. Deen Sharma, Gordon Sayers, Mitra Ally, Rajendra Singh, Richard Kanhai, Ramesh Yankanna, Donald Ramotar, R. Narine and Nun Persaud. [Georgetown MIRROR in English 31 Jan 82 p 2]

CSO: 3025/191

NATIONAL PARTY'S ZUNIGA ACCUSES LIBERALS OF FRAUD

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Jan 82 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa--The new government will be the sole responsibility of the Liberal Party, presidential candidate and top leader of the National Party, Ricardo Zuniga Augustinus, stated emphatically.

The defeated candidate for the country's presidency was guest of honor at a social gathering of his former associates, deputies in the National Constituent Assembly, held in a hotel in the capital. These same legislators had paid him a similar tribute in Valle de Angeles, in the country home of attorney Mario Rivera Lopez, on the day when Dr Suazo Cordova was inaugurated.

In his speech, the Blue leader tried to justify his defeat in the last election by accusing the Liberal Party of preparing a monumental fraud that surprised even the liberals themselves.

During his speech, he described the government headed by President Robert Suazo Cordova, of whom he said that he was always his "personal friend," as "illegitimate."

Zuniga Augustinus stated that he had in his possession around 35,000 election ballots that were rejected in the election process that culminated on 29 November 1981.

"As soon as the ballot boxes were opened, I noted the existence of a voting fraud, because lists of voters that had not been sent previously to the Central Committee of the National Party were reaching the election boards," he added.

He also said that throughout the country over 60,000 fraudulent alterations occurred, inflating the victory of the Liberal Party and he pointed out that the results of the election were "a real surprise" to him.

Owing to the foregoing, as Augustinus pointed out, the National Party deputies in the National Congress decided not to attend the inauguration ceremony of President Suazo Cordova. He emphasized that those deputies are not guided "by remote control" as has been implied. He added that each legislator is free to express his opinion to guide the National Congress in its deliberations.

The Liberals Deceive

The National Party leader accused the liberals of offering National Party members posts in public administration with the intention of "enticing" them away and of inducing them to leave the Blue ranks.

"I want to tell the National Party people that the liberals are only offering deceptions, because even they themselves deceive and that the new government will be the sole responsibility of the Liberal Party. That is what they themselves have made clear when they abandon their hasty meetings."

Finally, he said that the decisions of the top level of the National Party are backed by the support that the departmental presidents and local leaders of that political association have given it.

10,042

CSO: 3010/861

NEW ARMED FORCES CHIEF DELIVERS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Jan 82 p4

[Speech by Col Gustavo Alvarez Martinez on taking office as chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, on 29 January 1982, in the 1st Infantry Battalion Training Camp, near Tegucigalpa]

[Text] Tegucigalpa--Col Gustavo Alvarez Martinez took over the post of chief of the Armed Forces of Honduras yesterday, in a ceremony held in the 1st Infantry Battalion Training Camp, near this capital.

The following is the acceptance speech by the new top military commander:

I am taking over as chief of the Armed Forces of Honduras aware of the enormous responsibility involved in the post and I have the high honor of replacing in the same post MajGen Policarpo Paz Garcia, who was able to be outstanding in this post because of his positive work and his bold effort to cement the prestige and effectiveness of the Honduran armed institute.

The military background of General Paz Garcia cannot be reduced to a limiting parenthesis, because it overflows with a wealth of extreme patriotism and high professional capability. The vast course of his military life is saturated with exemplifying acts in his various duty assignments as an officer, always distinguished and filled with an intense, constant fervor for our institution. No one, past, present and future generations of Honduran soldiers, is unaware that during his term as chief, the Armed Forces attained a high degree of capability and professionalism as never before could be imagined. Added to this, is his constant concern for ensuring supreme maintenance of institutional self-respect.

The merits of this national hero are so numerous and so honorable that the history of the Armed Forces will have to insert in its most prominent pages this man who, with his own brilliance and dedication, was able to transfer to our institution, with the humility that always characterized his acts, those virtues peculiar to our best men. He succeeded in creating a solid, vertical, serious and worthy, discipline and effective, participative and respectful, traditionalist and modern armed institute. Armed Forces serving

the Republic's security, progress and development, aware of the fact that this is their unescapable duty and their sublime commitment to the nation. The former chief of the Armed Forces leaves us a great example that will be the best inspiration in performing the lofty, critical post with which I have been entrusted by the Honduran people through their honorable representatives in the National Congress.

There is no better time than this to state that I am democratic by conviction, that I profess the Christian faith sincerely and that I have deep respect for human lives. I believe categorically that the actions that conform best both with the advantage and the dignity of men and institutions are those actions that are performed on the basis of respect for justice and the law. It is equally important to point out that my assumption of the post of chief of the Armed Forces is taking place simultaneously with the emergence of a regime resulting from the people's will freely expressed in the ballot boxes and whose highly civic process was fully guaranteed by the Armed Forces.

I realize, then, the magnitude of my tasks in the armed institute in the face of world expectation, which is still surprised that Honduras determines its destiny with votes and not with weapon firing in the turbulent Central American geography, violently disturbed on its granitic foundation by the fierce struggle troubling public opinion in America and the other continents on this planet.

Here, we have decided to live within democracy and not at the mercy of terrorists. Here, we have established our Christian inclination against the forces of subversion and international atheism. Here, we have deliberated within the framework of ideological pluralism and we have banished the possibility that some expatriate will attack the security and the property of the citizens.

Without any doubt, this is the most critical time for Central America and for us Hondurans. I believe that the right time has come for great definitions of our conduct with regard to the country's destiny, the thriving of the heritage of our predecessors, the pure love for freedom, the honest veneration of family unity, the unlimited freedom of worship, free unionization, free enterprise and freedom of expression.

We all know that Marxism-Leninism has prepared and is carrying out specific plans for annihilating the structures of government representing the people's sovereignty and the democratic bases of their societies. Their preferred tactics in the subversion campaigns that they initiate are infiltration in the minds of the youth by means of the systems of education at every level, for the purpose of perverting their concepts on the legitimate values of our nationality, destroying their faith in God, inciting them to subversion of law and order by means of acts of sabotage aiming at destruction of the nation's production mechanism with the use of weapons and explosives and with any other method suitable for sowing ruin and desolation.

Other aspects of Marxist-Leninist subversion are no less dangerous, like, for example, work stoppages promoted without any justification whatsoever, the policies that they advocate in class warfare, the use of terrorist atrocities like kidnaping and murder, the organization and manipulation of gangs of common criminals, used to perpetrate attacks and robbery on private persons and

various institutions. All these crimes, outrages and attacks against individual and collective security, committed with the support and advice of international communism.

There is a constant attempt to disorganize the normal activities of Honduran society by promoting street riots, by blocking bridges, by obstructing city streets and highways. Public and private buildings are seized violently. There is robbery and murder. These spectacles are seen frequently and they are participated in by many misguided persons who, without belonging to communism, serve it as an instrument and assist it in carrying out its subversive plans. I believe that any sensible person will agree that any sectoral or popular claim, regardless of how justified it may be, does not authorize anyone to violate the basic rights of society and of individuals, like the right to life, to property, to free movement and to personal security in its various manifestations.

Our people have ratified, in the ballot boxes, their right to preserve their democratic background. Honduras is a nation that has the right to live in freedom without the ignominy of the oppressive chains of a foreign enemy with international roots.

The Armed Forces are fully aware that there are, in this country, imbalances characteristic of underdeveloped countries, caused, to a certain extent, by a legal structure that is obsolete in the economic, social and cultural fields, giving rise to situations of injustice resulting in social pressure.

In view of this real situation, which we must not ignore or evade, the armed institution is motivated by the best will and the firm determination to collaborate in solving these problems. This objective is presented as a vital imperative for civilians and military, if we are really motivated by the patriotic drive to consolidate the democratic system of the Honduran nation.

Within this order of ideas, the Armed Forces are firmly convinced that the government that has just taken office, as a result of the people's will freely expressed, must not fail.

Consequently, the military institution will give all its support to the institutional programs of the present regime, so that all its goals can be attained very successfully, as the most direct means of making the well-being of the Honduran people viable very soon. In this connection, in my dual role as a citizen and a soldier, I respectfully but very strongly invite the living forces of the nation to cooperate, all of us together, with our government in the democratic crusade that we have started.

We are presented with a great historic opportunity to offer to the world an example of what a people united and aware of its destiny, devoted to preservation of the principles of democracy, dedicated to defending the values of harmony and social peace, of human solidarity and of respect for the law, can do to achieve its most cherished aspirations. We must not miss this opportunity.

The Honduran people have to realize that sentient devotion to democracy as the chosen system of life is what obliges us to defend ourselves from totalitarian movements that degrade the human condition. We shall always accept doctrines contrary to our way of thinking, provided they contribute to constructive debate and promote pragmatic solutions to the problems confronting the government placed in office by the will of the people of Honduras. We shall never allow our people's right to self-determination to be disrespected. Nor shall we permit incursions in our territory by subversive elements who engage in terrorism and sabotage. Nor shall we put up with having irresponsible individuals engage in weapons traffic to increase the regional conflagration.

Comrades in Arms:

I am aware of the historic responsibility that I am taking on at this moment and that also is incumbent on the armed institution, which will be faced, in the immediate future, with the hardest trials that it has never before undergone. In order to be sure of achieving success in the lofty mission with which the nation has entrusted us, we must maintain, above all things, the discipline and the solid unity of the institution, subordination, respect and loyalty to one's superiors, motivated at all times by a self-sacrificing, proper fulfillment of one's duty. In my concern for promoting, intensifying and consolidating these essentially military virtues, you will have in me support, understanding and loyalty, both as chief and as comrade.

I do not deny that I feel deeply moved and proud at taking over as chief of the Armed Forces, because, setting aside any sign of false modesty, the culmination of my military career is materialized in this very solemn ceremony.

I remember with profound veneration, at this unforgettable time, my parents who so lovingly instilled firmness in my character, molding my Christian faith and a deep attachment to my family.

I repeat that I feel deeply moved and that this emotion is made more intense by the presence of my father, Prof Arturo Alvarez Calderon, of my wife, children, brothers and other family members. This presence speaks very high in my heart, because it is the presence of those loved persons to whom I shall be eternally grateful for their love, their understanding and their moral support. They also participate in the honor that the acquisition of this professional triumph means to me. It will enable me to have the constitutional prerogative of directing the destiny of the Armed Forces during the next 5 years.

I take advantage of this important opportunity to salute the Honduran people respectfully and to repeat the assurances that I shall place all my will, capability, effort and dedication in the performance of my duties to the nation and the armed institution.

Mister Constitutional President of the Republic, be sure that we shall carry out meticulously the sacred mission assigned to us by the Constitution of the Republic.

Thank you very much.

10,042

CSO: 3010/861

BRIEFS

IADB LOANS--Kingston, Jamaica, Thursday (CANA)--Jamaica is to receive a US\$30 million structural re-adjustment loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Jamaica Daily News reported yesterday. The paper said that the agreement was signed in Washington Tuesday by the Jamaican Financial Secretary, Horace Barber and the IADB's President, Antonio Ortiz Mena. The loan is for 15 years at 9.25 per cent per annum, the paper said. The money will be used largely for an overhaul of industrial and construction sectors here. The government, with its plans to develop an export-oriented economy, has been seeking funds to help in re-tooling and other areas of rehabilitation. Recently, Jamaica received a US\$5 million loan from the IADB to help purchase materials, spares and equipment for the Industrial sector under the same programme. The IADB is also lending the state-owned Caribbean Cement Company \$56 million for an expansion programme that will significantly increase its output, the report said. [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Feb 82 p 9]

CSO: 3025/196

POLITICAL LEADERS EXPRESS VIEWS ABOUT 1982

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27, 28, 29 Dec 81

[27 Dec 81 pp 1,12]

[Text] What has the year 1981 left to the Nicaraguans that is positive, and what that is negative? What does 1982 have in store for us? What should the coming year have in store for us?

These questions are the essence of a poll taken by LA PRENSA among the top leaders of the democratic political parties of Nicaragua, which we begin publishing today.

Wilfredo Montalvan, secretary general of the PSD [Social Democratic Party], Dr Sergio Mario Montealegre, secretary general of the MLC [Liberal Constitutionalist Movement], Attorney Adan Fletes Valle, national chairman of the PSC [Social Christian Party], Jose Castillo Osejo, national coordinator of the PCD [Democratic Conservative Party], and Engineer Alfonso Robelo, chairman of the MDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Movement] are the leaders who responded to LA PRENSA's year-end poll.

In today's edition, we offer our readers the statements of the first two of the above-mentioned leaders. Tomorrow, we will continue with those of the others.

As Seen by Montalvan

PSD Secretary General Wilfredo Montalvan finds the most positive achievement during 1981 to have been "the firm resistance shown by the Nicaraguan people in the face of the attempt by certain government leaders to institute a Marxist-Leninist system in Nicaragua."

Dwelling on this achievement, he added: "It is obvious to all that the political, economic and labor organizations with a democratic and pluralistic orientation have become strengthened this year, transforming themselves into a powerful bulwark against those who have spared no effort to institute in our country a new totalitarian system."

Religious Reawakening

Montalvan affirmed also that this year there was a religious reawakening, which manifested itself in the pilgrimages to Cuapa, the patron-saint feasts, and the mass demonstrations of religious faith and Christian observance that greeted the episcopal conference headed by Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo.

Asked what he views as positive accomplishments by the government, the social democratic leader cited the government's campaign against bureaucratism and the bringing to trial of those accused of maladministration of public funds.

Other positive aspects, according to Montalvan, were the intensification of the literacy drive and the support given by the government to the judicial system to prevent it from falling into anarchy.

The Negative

As to the negative aspects, the secretary general of the PSD said, "Regrettably, there were many." He cited the shutdowns of LA PRENSA and Radio Corporation, the banning of "Mi Preferida," the attacks against the CUS [Confederation for Unification of Labor] and the CTN [Federation of Nicaraguan Workers], the attempts to eliminate CONAPRO [National Confederation of Professional Associations], the efforts to divide the Catholic Church.

Continuing, he cited: The rise in unemployment and cost of living, the preachment of hate, the incitement of the "mobs" to action, the mistaken policy toward the Misurasatas, the imprisonment of members of the Communist Party, the CAUS [Federation for Labor Action and Unification] and of the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], the repressive actions against leaders of the democratic sector, the attack against Engineer Robelo's residence, the arbitrary confiscations, the lack of a clearly defined mixed economy, the absence of an effective pluralism.

He concluded saying with respect to the negative: "And in sum, the systematic violation of the JGRN [National Reconstruction Government Junta] platform and of the Statute of Guaranties and Rights of Nicaraguans."

1982: Gloomy

Asked his views as to the real outlook for 1982, the secretary general of the PSD said: "We social democrats view it as gloomy, because we have not yet seen any corrective intent on the part of the government; we have not seen any sincere position taken indicating that the errors being committed will be rectified."

He added: "Our Revolution is like a ship being subjected to turbulent pressures from every angle--the political, the economic, the social, and the foreign--and if we do not steer it correctly and opportunely, it will run aground."

Clearer Definition

As to what needs to be done in 1982, Montalvan said that the government should put forward a clear definition as to the direction in which--the politico-ideological system toward which--it is seeking to steer the country. He also said the government should improve the condition of the masses, the factory workers and the farm laborers, giving them a greater share in the profits of the enterprises.

He also asks the government to foster national unity, not on the basis of subjection, hate and imposition, but rather on that of mutual respect, justice and love.

As Sergio Mario Sees It

For Dr Sergio Mario Montealegre, secretary general of the MLC, of the little that is positive about our 1981 legacy, the outstanding thing has been the unity of the democratic sectors.

In this regard, he said: "The most outstanding occurrence during the year that is ending has been the solidarity of the democratic sectors around the 'Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero' Democratic Coordinative Grouping."

"The maintenance of this unity despite the efforts that have been made by the non-democratic forces confronting us to disarticulate it has been impressive indeed," said the constitutionalist leader.

"This solidarity," he continued, "which includes the PSC, MDN and MLC political parties, the CTN [Federation of Nicaraguan Workers] and CUS [Confederation for the Unification of Labor] independent labor organizations, and the COSEP, and which is a vast umbrella that covers the democratic sector of the country, embodies a widespread interest in the advancement of our process in the direction that will fulfill the true aspirations of the people."

"This solidarity that we democratic sectors maintain must serve as an example to the government, so that all we Nicaraguans can unite in advancing our revolutionary process toward its goal, which is the building of a pluralistic, democratic and mixed-economic society."

The Negative Aspects

Asked what of negative aspect, in his opinion, has occurred in 1981, the MLC leader said: "The negative aspect of this year, designated by the government the year of defense and production, is that it has become the year of unemployment, in that, instead of an increase in job openings there have been massive layoffs which have reduced the workers sector to utter poverty and need, without hope of finding work in the private enterprise sector because this sector has not increased its production, owing to circumstances and factors that have put constraints on its activity, like the Economic and Social Emergency Law, which provided the legal backing for the imprisonment of prominent leaders of the COSEP, one of them being Mr Enrique Dreyfus Morales who at one time had been offered the opportunity of filling the seat left vacant by Mr Robelo in the JGRN."

"All of this," Sergio Mario continued, "has created a climate of deep concern in the private productive sector, which is contributing to the contraction rather than the expansion of production."

He also said that in 1981 there has been a repression against independent labor unions, as well as against the CAUS [Federation for Labor Action and Unification] which had been considered government-sponsored.

The political parties also received their share of repression during the year now ending--said Montealegre--with physical and verbal attacks against their leaders and premises, in Managua and other departments.

"Politically, this represents a setback to the revolutionary process, which according to the Basic Law must be democratic and pluralistic," the constitutionalist leader pointed out.

"At the international level," he said, "the image of the Revolution has been tarnished by the mistaken conduct of the government's foreign policy. Let us take as an example when Cdr Daniel Ortega first proposed in the UN that the problem of El Salvador be resolved through dialogue and elections; then there was a change of direction in Santa Lucia at the meeting of the OAS.

"I consider," he continued, "that the electoral road is the correct road, since as civilianists we believe this to be the only way to resolve political problems in those countries that want to live in a climate of freedom and democracy.

"Any other method only succeeds in opening the well-trodden path to dictatorship," he emphasized.

Dr Montealegre sees the outlook for 1982 as "gloomy and disillusioning," since even the commanders have expressed themselves in pessimistic terms."

"As a man of politics," he said, "I am concerned by the unemployment announced by the government for 1982 when it states it is going to restructure the administrative sector of the government as well as that of the industries and agricultural enterprises managed by the government."

Montealegre stated that such unemployment will constitute a pressure that will have a negative impact on the economy and that could reduce it to a state of inanition.

The Desirable

The secretary general of the MLC affirmed that the desirable for 1982 is that the government take steps to create new sources of jobs for the working masses.

In the political domain he asserted that the ideal would be a reversion to the original documents of the Revolution, documents which according to our interlocutor have not only not been adhered to but, on the contrary, have little by little been set aside by the governing party.

The start--he said--must be the promulgation of an election law containing a law on political parties that will satisfy the political parties interested in democratizing the country.

In this regard--he asserts--the recent statement by Vice Commander Solis, to the effect that the governing power would not be at stake in the elections, is cause for concern.

He also affirmed as a goal for 1982 the derogation of all laws that infringe upon freedom of the press and upon the Basic Law that sets forth unrestricted freedom of the press for the new Nicaragua.

Overloaded Wagon

Dr Montealegre concluded likening the Revolution to a wagon that is overloaded on the side of the left wheel and that is being driven over a rough terrain full of potholes, craggy bumps and boggy depressions that will not let it reach its destination.

"In my opinion," he said, "that load must be shared by another wagon, even if this means two wagons in motion; and they must proceed along a less rugged path--the democratic path--so that in the process our goal is finally achieved, which is the establishment of a sovereign, independent and nonaligned republic like the one aspired to by our Hero and Martyr for People's Freedoms Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal."

[28 Dec 81 p 12]

[Text] Continuing our poll of the top leaders of the democratic political parties as to the positive and negative aspects of the year 1981 and the outlook for 1982, we present today the views of the chairman of the PSC [Social Christian Party], Attorney Adan Fletes Valle, and of the national coordinator of the PCD [Democratic Conservative Party], Mr Jose Castillo Osejo.

According to Adan Fletes

In the view of Adan Fletes, 1981 has been a very difficult year which in his opinion was marked by four trends: A repression against the democratic sectors; a deepening of the economic crisis; what Fletes calles "the dialogue crisis"; and the doctrine of power-political armament.

He says: "This was the year of the "mobs" and of a constant repression of all that was considered dissidence. Let us recall the events at the airport, the detention of the CPDH [Permanent Committee for Human Rights] coordinator, the search of the CPDH premises, the attacks against the PSC's headquarters and the continuing arrests of its members in different places throughout the country.

"The attack on the headquarters of the MDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Movement], the events at Nandaime, the harrassment of households, arrests of CTN [Federation of Nicaraguan Workers] members, shutdowns of the "Newspaper of the Nicaraguans" [LA PRENSA] and of the radio news broadcasts, the attacks on the home of Engineer

Alfonso Robelo, that of the present vice chairman of the PSC, Rafael Ramos, and that of the secretary for organization, Anibal Ibarra, the arrests of the leaders of COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] and CAUS [Federation for Labor Action and Unification].

Price Rise

"From the economic standpoint," Fletes continues, "there is in the labor market a substantial drop in the demand for it and the government has even promulgated an Emergency Law which, if one analyzes it, is at best negative in what it does for us."

Dialogue Crisis

Analyzing the attempts at dialogue made during 1981, Fletes said: "After repeated failures of attempts at dialogue, the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] finally responded to longstanding democratic concerns and the Forum for Discussion of National Problems ensued."

Commenting on this Forum, the social democratic leader said that it already has a prior history of failures, such as the nonfulfillment of the government platform and of other agreements entered into by the FSLN.

"Nevertheless," adds Fletes, "on the positive side of things, it has left us the organization of the Democratic Coordinative Grouping, and moreover placed clearly before the people the strength of our democratic positions."

On the negative side of the Forum is the FSLN's nonfulfillment of its 19 signed agreements.

Still a Chance

Despite the failure of the Forum, Fletes thinks there is still a chance for a concerted solution between the government and the democratic forces.

In this regard, he says: "An attempt was made to accomplish something by the end of this year, but it ended in a lack of confidence in the Front. Another effort now under way, though less resounding, is already producing more results than the Forum: A Meeting for Exchange of Views and National Convergence that is now taking place among the PPSC [Popular Social Christian Party], the PLI [Independent Liberal Party], the PSD [Social Democratic Party], the CUS [Confederation for the Unification of Labor], the CTN and the PSC."

Adan Fletes also expressed his hope that a Law on Political Parties will be passed that satisfies the aspirations of all the parties, since this would lay down clearly a new form of government-opposition consensus based on concrete accomplishments.

Regarding the power-political armament race, the chairman of the PSC affirms that the USSR and the United States are accelerating their own armament and are arming their allies in the belief that threatening war is the best road to peace.

"If this continues, the time will come when the world will be an inferno," Fletes says, adding that in Central America an extreme armament race can take place only as a result of examples on the part of one's neighbors.

"We regret," he said, "all the border confrontations that are taking place, because these are bringing mourning to many households and are impoverishing the countries involved even more.

"Moreover," he continued, "those attacks are endangering Nicaragua's relations with neighboring countries."

To complete the 1981 picture, Attorney Fletes cites the attempt against Pope, the death in Nicaragua of Ramiro Sacasa and Pedro J. Quintanilla, the brutal repression in Poland, and the attempts to divide the Catholic Church of Nicaragua.

Summarizing the fruitful and encouraging aspects of these somber views, Adan Fletes finds that Nicaragua's democratic and revolutionary youth are uniting more and more; that the Democratic Coordinative Grouping is gaining strength and that an international forum on Nicaragua was organized in a united manner in Costa Rica; and that the religious beliefs of our people have been strengthened.

Asked regarding the outlook for 1982, Fletes said: "According to the FSLN's official positions, we can look toward 1982 with a slight hope of a political door-opening that is important, namely, the law on political parties, which must be democratic; otherwise, it is worthless.

"And if this law comes about, it will be a milestone on the road to making of 1982 a year of slow but real economic and political recovery for the country. If, on the contrary, a trend toward a state of military emergency or of war, as announced by the minister of interior to be seen as a possibility, should materialize, then 1982 will be the worst year of the 1980 decade," said Adan Fletes, chairman of the PSC, thus concluding his remarks.

Castillo Osejo's Views

Jose Castillo Osejo, national coordinator of the PCD, cited as positive aspects of the year that is ending several accomplishments in the field of public health.

As examples, he pointed out the mass inoculation drive against polio and the anti-malarial campaign.

"The anti-polio inoculation drive," he said, "will redound to the benefit of our children, and the anti-malarial one was satisfactory and will bear its fruits."

He also praised the start of implementation of a plan to build low-cost but quite comfortable housing to partially alleviate the shortage of shelters for the disadvantaged.

[29 Dec 81 p 12]

[Text] To conclude our poll of the political leaders on the year that is now ending and on the coming one, we present here the views of Mr Alfonso Robelo, chairman of the MDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Movement], for whom the legacy of 1981 contains little that is positive and much that is negative.

Robelo cited three events he considers positive: One attributable to all sectors of the country, another fostered by its democratic forces, and a third attributable to the people in general.

The first positive event, according to Robelo, was the initiative taken by the different political forces of the country, including the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] to sit down together in the Forum for Discussion of National Problems.

"What led us to the Forum," he said, "was something very positive, and the regrettable thing was its disruption on 19 July of this year when Comandante Daniel Ortega stated there was nothing further to talk about and that the rules of the game had been set."

A second positive event this year, according to the MDN leader, was the agglutination of the democratic forces that are adhering to the original process of the Revolution to form the Democratic Coordinative Grouping.

"This," he added, "enabled the democratically minded to work more efficiently and to consolidate a positive leadership for the majority of Nicaraguans, who support the original Revolution."

"The third event," said Robelo, "and one I attribute to the people, is that the majority of the Nicaraguans were mature enough and bold enough to show that what they want is the authentic democracy for which 50,000 died and for which the people underwent so much sacrifice."

The Negative

There were in 1981, in Mr Robelo's view, five highly relevant negative events.

"The most negative event, in my opinion," said Robelo, "was the manipulation of the unsuspecting Nicaraguans who were brainwashed and led to attack their own brothers on the mere basis of their not being aligned with the governing party."

"These groups," he continued, "which the people refer to as 'mobs,' have engaged in practices that were used in the past by fascist regimes, thus compromising a revolution that was specifically intended to be the antithesis of fascism."

Another very negative aspect cited by Robelo was the escalation of the repression against the elements that participated outstandingly in the Nicaraguan people's heroic action against Somoza and that today find themselves behind prison bars for having firmly and courageously criticized the actions of the governing party.

A third negative event, according to the chairman of the MDN, has been the flight of professionals, "which has continued during 1981 to an alarming extent and which, by way of emigration, has made national reconstruction more difficult, reflecting starkly the uncertainty that afflicts the masses."

The fourth negative aspect cited by Alfonso Robelo is the lack of solidarity of the government, which made no statement of its position in the case of Poland, but has instead tried by every other means to justify the Soviet interference.

"I think," said Engineer Robelo, "the government missed a marvelous opportunity to validate one of the basic principles of our Revolution, which is the nonalignment with either of the superpowers that are seeking to control the world."

"I must point out as a negative event," he continued, "the politicization of all spheres of the state machinery, which is converting the government into a party rather than a national structure, creating a further obstacle to the also fundamental principle of the Revolution, which is that of an effective pluralism."

"The most recent example of this confusion between state and party has been the issue of 1,000 governing party cards to officers of the Armed Forces of the Ministries of Interior and Defense."

"Obviously, this makes difficult the implementation of the effective pluralism called for in the original documents of the Revolution," he added.

A fifth negative aspect has been the worsening of the unemployment situation, owing to the government's having found it necessary to close various work centers without being able to increase the number of job openings available to an increasingly larger economically active available work force.

How Robelo Sees 1982

Asked his view of the real outlook for 1982, Robelo replied: "If the 1981 trends continue, we will find ourselves facing an even more difficult economic situation, reflected in unemployment, exchange rates, scarcities and inflation."

Politically, should an amnesty not be granted and should the trend toward and interlacement of the FSLN with the state continue, we will find ourselves ever and ever more distant from the effective pluralism that is indispensable to the creation of the climate needed for our reconstruction."

The Ideal

According to Mr Alfonso Robelo, the ideal for 1982 would be "the forging of a genuine national unity that responds solely to the true interests of the Nicaraguans, putting aside ideological, party or personal interests and restoring to Nicaragua the unity, harmony and concord that existed on 19 July 1979."

The chairman of the MDN and of the Democratic Coordinative Grouping of Nicaragua, Mr Alfonso Robelo Callejas, concluded with these words: "1982 must be the start of a process of high-minded relationships among all sectors of our national life, devoted unstintingly to bringing about what is within our reach and to restoring the original plan of the Nicaraguan Revolution, thus saving our fatherland from falling into the grip of the hegemonistic superpowers."

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CSO: 3010/790

EDITORIAL BLAMES LABOUR PARTY FOR RASTA ATTACK, VIOLENCE

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 6 Feb 82 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

We did some research and traced what we believe is the origin of the unfortunate and alarming incident at Government Headquarters, to the wicked practices and treacherous utterances of the Opposition Labour Party leaders. (See Labour's Commitment to Violence on Page 11.)

The strategy of the power hungry, power thirsty misleaders of Labour is clearly, to incite discontent against the Premier of this country and his lawfully-elected Government. They are striving desperately by words, deeds and writings to create public disturbance in their reckless endeavours to bring the Government into hatred and contempt.

They have been busy too, provoking the people of this country to use physical violence in various public matters connected with the State.

A speaker or writer may certainly criticize or censure the conduct and acts of Government. Indeed, he or she may do so freely and liberally, but it must be without malignity, malicious motives, defamation or obscenity.

When however, supposedly responsible individuals set out to curse the Premier of the State, to wish him ill, to give out false and scandalous stories about him or to do and say things with

the sole purpose of trying to lessen him in the esteem of his electorate in order to weaken his Government, or to raise jealousies between him and his people, these things affect weak and desperate minds. The Labour misleaders know this too - but their callous behaviour is part and parcel of their ruthless scheme to regain power and herein lies the tragedy of the once-upon-a-time mighty Labour party.

The Labour party is engaged in a dangerous campaign calculated to inflame the minds of the labourers and working people in this country and to incite them to acts of violence, riot and disorder.

By so doing they are acting:-

- (a) In contempt of the Premier and his Cabinet Ministers
- (b) In open violation of the Laws of this country.
- (c) Against the public peace and order.

Tuesday's Machete - wielding incident cannot be traced to any particular rejection or disappointment of Carl Hewlett connected with Premier Simmonds or anyone in Government. Labour's hate propaganda, Labour's recommendation of violence and Labour's programme of destabilisation cannot be brushed off. It is relentless and real. It is an evil and destructive example to impressionable and unstable mentalities.

We therefore feel that the rascals of the "WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED" Labour Party deserve the blame for Tuesday's outbreak of violence at Government Headquarters and not the Rasta. The Democrat at this time shares the sorrow and shock of the victims and their families and genuinely wishes them a speedy and full recovery.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE REVIEWS DOMESTIC, REGIONAL ISSUES

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 6 Feb 82 p 6

[Text] This Meeting provides another significant occasion for Caribbean Ministers, who are entrusted with the non-enviable responsibility for Agriculture, to assess, evaluate and chart new directions for the future development of agriculture in the region.

Admittedly, the Meeting takes place at a time when there are increasing external pressures on the economies of Caribbean countries. Recession, protectionism or a combination of both progressively undermine access to some markets on which our economic policies depend. However, it is the situation that should awaken us to the reality of the need for a renewed commit-

ment to integration and co-operation.

I will like to reaffirm our commitment here in St. Kitts-Nevis to joint regional efforts, particularly in agricultural development, for the benefit of our people in the Caribbean. We subscribe to the view that more than ever needed are mutual support and joint efforts in the field of agricultural production.

Agriculture in the Caribbean

Agricultural production in the Caribbean, over the last decade, in particular, has been affected by a number of factors. These include personnel to provide services to small farmer operations, the

lack of proper land use and land tenure policies, the high cost of agricultural inputs, and high marketing costs.

The food import bill for most of our countries has increased tremendously. It is reported that food imports in the Region now exceed EC\$1,700 million or over US\$600 million per year, and that the Region has become a net importer of food and agricultural products.

The situation therefore calls for clearly defined, national and joint regional policies and programmes in order to overcome the difficulties facing the agricultural sector. If we are to decrease our food import bill and provide more food for our people, we must be persuaded to consider and adopt policies which would contri-

bute to the common task of the development of the agricultural sector. Joint efforts and the use of complementary resources can obviously bring about higher levels of food production.

Overview of the Agenda

Discussions on the Commodities Working Party report on sugar, in particular, may prove useful to the sugar producing countries of the Region. At present, this State sees a bleak 1982 sugar crop, in terms of economic returns. The fall in the value of the pound sterling, the decrease in the price of sugar on the world market, and protective measures by our traditional markets will certainly have their toll on the economic situation in the Region.

I therefore feel

rather gratified that over the next two days, I will be party to discussions on matters that will positively affect the quality of life of our people in the years ahead.

Conclusion

While I am indeed happy to be associated with discussions geared towards improvement in the quality of life in the Caribbean, I will like to suggest that we do not allow this Meeting to be a mere rhetoric exercise, but that we make a serious effort to translate our deliberations into positive action.

I have no doubt that we will make good use of the forum which this Meeting provides, and that our deliberations would lead to positive results, concerning the development of agriculture in the Region.

JOSIE CLAIMS POLICE ARE IMPORTING ILLEGAL WEAPONS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 20 Feb 82 p 3

[Text]

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, Friday (CANA) — St. Lucia Labour Party leader Peter Josie, has said that senior members of the police force here are aware of the illegal importation of arms into the country.

Josie said he knew "at least one politician," here who had been instrumental in getting arms into St. Lucia.

Josie, Minister of Trade and Foreign Affairs in an SLP government which was forced out of office last month, reiterated at a Press conference that he had enough evidence to believe that the "passports scandal" was connected with an illegal arms deal between "persons in St. Lucia and overseas dealers."

Josie declared: "I have sufficient details. I believe the police have some of that information. I don't know why they have not acted. I do not want to call names yet because it is still early and I do not want to prejudice any investigations which are being carried out now."

He wanted the interim government of Prime Minister Michael Pilgrim to secure the services of Britain's Scotland Yard and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation in uncovering the details of the scandal, saying he did not

believe the investigations should be left entirely to the local police force.

The passports racket has been rocking St. Lucia during the past two weeks. Government says some 21 blank passports have been stolen from police headquarters and sent to an international criminal based in London.

According to preliminary investigations the passports were sold at exorbitant prices to wealthy aliens.

Josie said he knew of one politician who was instrumental in bringing arms illegally in to St. Lucia. He said that the arms initially were brought in to "protect" members of the St. Lucia Labour Party who were in opposition at the time when the United Workers Party of former Prime Minister John Compton was in power.

But Josie added: "But since then, even when we (the Labour Party) were in power, it seemed to me that this thing (the illegal importation of arms) was continuing and I am sure these arms were not given by any West Indian government."

Josie said he was in possession of a great deal of information which could lead to the exposure of the people involved in the passports racket.

TWO CHARGED IN PASSPORT CASE; INVESTIGATION CONTINUING

Foreign Police Assistance

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 20 Feb 82 p 1

[Text]

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, Friday, (CANA) — A police constable and a janitor were today charged with conspiracy and intent to defraud and the St. Lucian Government announced it was expanding its investigations into an alleged passport racket involving the illegal sale of St. Lucian passports.

The janitor and policeman were attached to police headquarters.

The men are accused of conspiring to forge 23 St. Lucian passports valued at EC \$690 (one E.C. dollar equal 37 cents U.S.) between December 1979 and this month.

Interim Prime Minister Michael Pilgrim today an-

nounced that Government had sought the assistance of Interpol and Scotland Yard in its attempts to locate former Barbados-born St. Lucian superintendent Ormond Reece who is wanted by police for questioning.

Yesterday, police issued a warrant for the arrest of Mr. Reece, who has been serving in the police department here for 30 years and left the island shortly before the racket was discovered.

Mr. Pilgrim has said that the racket involved international criminal Wolfgang Kurt Basch and blank passports had been offered to Iranians at US \$50 000 (U.S.) per person and US \$75 000 per family.

Compton Letter

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 Feb 82 p 3

[Text]

CASTRIES St. Lucia Sunday (CANA) — The validity of St. Lucian passports is suspect now, says veteran politician John Compton, following exposure of a racket in which the illegal sale of such documents to foreigners was fetching high prices overseas.

Mr. Compton said in a letter to Prime Minister Michael Pilgrim that one embassy in the region had already decided to stop endorsing St. Lucian passports for the time being. He did not identify

which one.

Mr. Compton's letter came as investigations continued into the passports scandal.

Police last week announced the arrest of a constable and a janitor, both attached to police headquarters, and accused them of conspiracy with intent to defraud.

The men are said to have conspired with former Superintendent Orman Reece, and an international criminal, Dr. Wolfgang Kurt Bartsch, and others to forge 23 St. Lucian passports between

December 1979 and earlier this month.

The janitor and constable, who is an assistant storekeeper, are also charged with stealing the passports and an official date stamp.

The police have issued a warrant for the arrest of Reece, who left the country shortly before the racket was uncovered.

Mr. Pilgrim said that local police had contacted INTERPOL about Reece, 57, who had served in the local police force 30 years before his

retirement two years ago.

The assistance of Scotland Yard has been sought in the investigations.

In his letter to the Prime Minister, United Workers' Party leader Compton had said that both Scotland Yard and INTERPOL should be involved.

Mr. Compton said that his party would not "permit this passport fraud to fade away into nothingness." Nor would it tolerate any cover-up.

It was then that he claimed that all St. Lucian passports were now suspect as a result of the scandal and one embassy in the region had announced that "until further notice" it would not endorse any St. Lucian passports.

Pointed out that Mr. Pilgrim had said nothing more on the scandal since his first address on the issue on February 10, Mr. Compton said: "The public have a right to know what is happening to the vital matter of their citizenship. And your peculiar position as an interim Prime Minister only, whose temporary appointment is rigorously restricted in its terms of reference, makes it imperative that you keep the public well informed."

Mr. Pilgrim was named at the head of an interim Government a month ago to

take the country into General Elections following the toppling of the Labour Party after a wave of public protest over its handling of the country's affairs.

The letter added: "You stated that you intend to see that justice is done. Our party and the nation hold you to that statement. Act promptly, lest you convey the impression that you too are involved even if after the fact."

Since the racket was uncovered, there have been hints dropped by local politicians that a member of Mr. Pilgrim's Progressive Labour Party (PLP) might be involved.

PLP leader George Odum, who was until last May a minister in the SLP Government, has said suggestions that he might be implicated in the scandal were ridiculous.

Mr. Odum noted that it was he who had advised Mr. Pilgrim to bring Scotland Yard into the investigations.

Replying to the Compton letter, Mr. Pilgrim reiterated his earlier statement that action would be taken against those involved "irrespective of where the axe falls."

He assured that there would be no cover-up, as he intended to see that whoever was involved was brought to justice.

THE VOICE Editorial

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 25 Feb 82 p 4

[Text]

ST. LUCIANS and the rest of the world must surely be asking whether there is any end to this country's political problems. Just when our energies ought to be directed towards a general election which would have settled two-and-a-half years of sheer waste, a new controversy has surfaced.

Mr. Pilgrim spelled out some of the details during the week, but at the risk of involving his criticism again (we did so last

Thursday night in respect of our previous day's editorial merely urging him to set a date quickly for the elections), we must say that - his address on what has become known as "the passports scandal" left many questions unanswered.

Be that as it may, we must express our support for Mr. Pilgrim's decision to press ahead with the investigation into this latest blur on St. Lucia's name, and to take appropriate action

"irrespective of where the axe falls".

Mr. Josie has a point when he criticises Mr. Pilgrim for implicating members of the former Labour Party Government in the affair, by innuendo. In fact, one would have expected that the prime minister was in possession of the names of those lawyer ministers of the last government who were allegedly involved in the scandal.

If it is the case of Mr. Pilgrim not being in possession of this information, then it was wrong to make the blanket statement that he did.

But all this is by the way, and should not in any way, detract from the seriousness of this passport business. All five lawyer ministers in the Cenac government, have denied involvement in the affair. Mr. George Odium too has dismissed speculation that he was in some way connected.

The question is: Who really is involved? Who in St. Lucia conspired with "an international

criminal" and members of the Royal St. Lucia Police Force to illegally sell St. Lucian passports overseas to aliens?

Is there any truth in Mr. Josie's startling declarations that the passports scandal is connected with guns and the attempted overthrow of the Dominica government?

The only way these issues could be cleared is by a thorough and proper investigation. Mr. Pilgrim, as we have said on previous occasions, commands widespread support and respect in this country. We say emphatically that we believe Mr. Pilgrim will live up to his word and pursue this matter to the very end.

At a time when all three political parties will be looking to make political capital of this latest misfortune on St. Lucia during the current election campaign, it is imperative that this matter be cleared up speedily, and not remain unresolved by election day.

PAPER REVIEWS POLITICAL SITUATION OF OPPOSITION PARTIES

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 12 Feb 82 p 1

[Article by Zan Lewis]

[Text]

The Vincentian in an effort to keep the public up to date on the 'Opposition Disarray' referred to last week and the latest on the alliance between the New Democratic Party (NDP) headed by James Mitchell and the United Peoples' Movement (UPM) headed by Dr. Ralph Gonsalves contacted those involved. Senator Victor Cuffy, explained that he has resigned from the House and WPP but not from politics, and at the moment is simply thinking and looking at the political situation of the country. He made it clear that he has no definite plan for joining or forming any party.

Senator George Thomas, who has resigned from the House and from the PDP stated that his reason was "ill health." He however admitted interest in plans that Dr. Cordice has in connection with the possible formation of another party, when he has "completely recovered". This party he explained, would not be run in the old fashioned way, with everything resting on one particular leader, everyone will be pulling their weight. He concluded, that he didn't think that anyone as long as he is alive can turn his back on

politics. — because politics is a part of everyone's life.

Dr. Gideon Cordice who has resigned from the PDP confirmed that he is forming a new party. One that has no relationship with the old party the Progressive Democratic Party. He said that this new party which hasn't yet been given a name is one which is deeply interested in the people of this state. He noted, that the party is in the process of getting together a provisional executive comprised of men who are dedicated to seeing a better social and economic order in the country. The executive he continued, would elect the party provisional officers and a manifesto of the party's plans and strategies would be presented to the public very soon.

Meanwhile the alliance between the PDP and the UPM is still in the air.

Ralph Gonsalves of the U.P.M. said that there is "no coalition between the two parties." The parties he said are engaged in identifying areas of co-operation leading to some form of electoral alliance. They have agreed on principles and co-operation. In discussions he noted, both Mitchell and

himself have identified a number of areas which are concerned with the worsening democratic situation in the country. He referred to the joint statement issued with the Farmers and Workers Group on the recently introduced Representation of the People Act.

A proposal has been put forward by the UPM that each of the two political parties concerned appoint a small working committee to work out details of the forms of co-operation and tactics to be employed. This proposal, Gonsalves said, was presented to the Central Committee of the NDP regarding which he received a verbal decision. He said that a letter would follow.

Gonsalves noted that there may be people complaining of yet another alliance because of the bad experiences gained in 1972-1974 between the PPP and Mitchell. His alliance he said comes in a different context and different forces are operating.

He stated that (1) the society is more in a state of crisis than in 1972, which proves that the forces impelling unity today are greater. (2) that Alliance in 1972 took place after an election and it was not thoroughly worked out in principle before the General Elections. (3) his alliance if it comes (3) his alliance if it comes about will be taking place between 2 authentic parties whereas in 1972 it was one party and an individual. Gonsalves assures all his countrymen that the UPM

does not anticipate any difficulty or problem on the leadership of the alliance. Further, they do not see difficulty in working out any common programme since they have agreed that any such programmes must be based on democracy, patriotism, economic reform and a non-alligned foreign policy.

Gonsalves said that the UPM welcome the decision of Dr. Cordice to leave the Russell rump of the Labour Party which is politically dead.

Meanwhile the New Democratic Party president James Mitchell told The Vincentian that his so called unity negotiations with Dr. Ralph Gonsalves of the UPM still remained merely in the discussion stage. There had been no agreement reached on a party basis. In fact working together on the Representation of the People Act in the interest of the nation was the only area of collaboration to date.

Mr. Mitchell noted and we quote, "When I look at the scramble to usurp the status and positions of the opposition in Parliament, rightfully belonging to NDP, and how the worthlessness has back-fired, I can only say that a straight line will always cut a curve."

The new leader of the PPP Clive Tannis, has assured The Vincentian that his party is still very much alive and ready to continue an active political role in the country.

OPPOSITION LEADER, IN BARBADOS, LISTS GOVERNMENT SHORTCOMINGS

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 23 Feb 82 p 2

[Article by Keith Toppin]

[Text]

ST. VINCENT is too dependent on Barbados and is politically influenced by happenings here. These comments were expressed by that country's opposition leader, Randolph Russell, as he stopped over in Barbados on his way home recently.

He said that inflation in his country is running at 15 and 20 percent.

Russell criticised the St. Vincent government for not choosing its priorities. When asked to elaborate, he said that there is a need for development in the tourism and communication sectors.

The opposition leader accused the Cato government of mismanagement by stating that not enough funds were in circulation in the country. He added that there was no employment policy or programme and that business places were contemplating laying off workers.

Russell stated that local businesses are pressured and heavily taxed in favour of foreign enterprises. The opposition leader said he saw this as a move in keeping with the government's

policy of state owned enterprise.

"Most of the enterprises are millstones around the necks of Vincentians as most of these government-run projects are losing money," he said.

Russell pointed out that there was too much governmental control. In giving an example of this, he said that in the selection of farm workers for overseas, government ministers had to do it. The labour commissioner and other civil servants are used as rubber stamps.

The opposition leader added that there was a need for the civil service union in that country to speak out on those matters, because St. Vincent is pursuing a course similar to Guyana.

He accused the government of not using the radio station to inform the people. He also added that the opposition was not permitted the use of the station.

When asked about salaries and wages, Russell stated that a minimum wage is being negotiated for persons working in the coconut industry. (The minimum wage is EC\$6 and \$8 a day).

Russell stated that a 30-percent salary increase for workers was now being considered by the government. Parliamentarians and civil servants had already received their 30 percent increase, he concluded.

CSO: 3025/197

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST MILITARY GOVERNMENT

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 15 Feb 82 p 1

[Report by Frans Van Klaveren: "Public Protest Against Military Authority in Suriname"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 15 Feb--A crowd of an estimated 2,000 people, including the curious, demonstrated Saturday publicly against the military authority in Suriname.

Waving the green and black colors of the former political party NPS [National Party of Suriname] the demonstrators called out chants such as: "We want Arron, we want free elections."

Former premier Henk Arron, who had been detained for some time after the coup d'etat by the military in 1980 and who is still officially awaiting a hearing by the special court of justice for corruption, spoke to the crowd.

It happened Saturday during the funeral of NPS and labor union leader J.M. Lemmer, better known as Palem. The ceremony was clearly held to show the military authorities that the former political parties in Suriname are not dead, for the chairman of the United Hindustani Party (VHP), Lachmon, also spoke. The chairman of the largest labor union in Suriname, the Mother Union, with a reported 14,000 members, Cyriel Daal, likewise addressed the crowd. Mr Daal is held to be one of Major R. Horb's advisors. Horb, after the commander, Lt Col Desi Bouterse, is the strong man in the army.

At 1:00 Saturday afternoon, the people began to gather at the Mother Union's building, where the physical remains of Palem lay on view. When Henk Arron appeared, there were loud cheers and applause. Women wrapped themselves around Arron's neck and kissed him, while he laughed and cried at the same time. Former vice premier Olton Van Genderen, former parliamentary chairman Wijntuin, former minister Cambridge and Acting Minister A. Kamperveen in the present setup were also present. When asked for a reaction, Mr Wijntuin said, "Political parties have a long life. This is more than a funeral." To the surprise of many, recently fallen president Henk Chin A Sen, who knew Palem well, also appeared at the Mother Union's building with his wife.

On the way to the churchyard, along which the pall bearers carried the coffin on their shoulders, hundreds of people stood. Soldiers equipped with walkie-talkies patrolled in civilian clothes; they were sometimes upbraided and occasionally observers had to restrain their fellow demonstrators from the use of violence.

The Dutch military attache to Suriname, Colonel B. Van Tussenbroek, and a spokesman for the federation of former combattants also addressed the crowd. No one was present from the National Army, although a speaker from that side had been announced.

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NAARENDORP ON CONSTITUTION, ELECTIONS

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 13 Feb 82 p 1

[Report of an interview of Harvey Naarendorp, acting minister of foreign affairs, general affairs and justice, by Frans Van Klavern, place and time of interview not given]

[Text] Paramaribo, 13 February--Suriname will receive a sort of intermediate constitution as a precursor to the real constitution. That paper is to set forth the basic rights of the people, the embryonic structure of the democracy and the distribution of the powers of the government in the current situation. That is what Acting Minister Harvey Naarendorp of foreign affairs, general affairs and justice said in an interview.

Naarendorp said he believed this is a good time to evaluate the achievements and mistakes calmly. "We are working hard on the structure of the entire governmental apparatus to make it better serve the goals which we have set."

When asked whether Suriname will come up to the ideals of Premier Van Agt, who has often remarked that democracy in Suriname is subject to erosion, Naarendorp said, "Our primary responsibility is not to Mr Van Agt but to the people of Suriname."

According to Naarendorp, that population is ethnically divided, which has led to the "total stagnation" in policy formation. "Thus, we must seek out new forms of democracy. Van Agt and all upright Netherlanders will agree with us that you do not just pull a more or less workable democracy out of your pocket. (...) The point is that people see us as we really are: are we really ready for democracy?"

On the question of human rights in Suriname, Naarendorp said, "I believe that in the initial situation we had some problems with that. Those have slowly declined. The government will have to make the limits very clear regarding its powers."

According to Naarendorp, corruption still occurs. "I believe that every country has that. The thing is to limit it to a minimum, to permit as few structures where it is possible as is possible.

"In Europe, grease money speeds things up; here it seems as though it stagnates them."

Outspoken

Naarendorp's reaction to the question of whether elections were coming was very outspoken. "They are coming. You can expect the guidelines right away." He could not tell us anything about the form in which those elections would be organized as yet.

With regard to the economic situation, he said: "As a result of the recession, we are facing hard times. If the flow of money from the Netherlands were to be cut off, it would undoubtedly give us problems. I certainly believe that."

When asked about that, Naarendorp said that the start after the coup d'etat had been difficult because the political line and the supporting organization were lacking. "The line was clear in its general ideological orientation, that is, that the change must benefit the majority of the people, but how that was to be accomplished had not been worked out yet. We have had to muddle along with that for 2 long years."

He admitted that many mistakes had been made. "There have been many crises, which may well have seemed incomprehensible from the outside, and which sadly enough took place largely over the heads of large parts of the population." On the other hand, much has been accomplished, too, according to Naarendorp. He said he was "somewhat" ready to believe that among the populace "there exists a desire for peace." On the other hand, "a revolution does not run on a bed of roses. It is a transformation of society, in our case the fundamental decolonialization of Suriname. That causes jolts."

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EDITORIAL WARNS OF NEED FOR HEIGHTENED NATIONAL SECURITY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Feb 82 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] The three armed Frenchmen who invaded the capital city on Saturday night could have been up to something far more nefarious than the kidnapping of a five-year-old boy.

Certainly we are horrified by the raid on the Marcano home on Flament Street, the violence that was done to Mrs. Yolande Meynet and the kidnapping of her son, Michael. May we assure her of our sympathy.

But the relative ease with which this group of dangerously armed foreigners were able to enter Trinidad undetected on board a yacht and reach their objective in the heart of Port-of-Spain tells us something very frightening about the vulnerability of our shores and the inadequate nature of our national security arrangements.

The fact that the commando-style kidnapping took place a stone's throw from the country's major power station should also speak for itself. We can only now thank our lucky stars that these invaders were not bent on a wider mission of violence within our shores.

And we can only hope that the lesson of their ruthless enterprise is not lost on the powers that be. It serves, in fact, to emphasise what this newspaper has been pointing out repeatedly in the past.

Unsatisfactory

This country's protective services are in unsatisfactory shape: they lack the wherewithal to patrol the country's coasts nonstop 24 hours a day. They do not have the necessary firepower, it would seem, to repel incursion from even a small outside force seriously intending to do us harm.

The Coast Guard evidently has neither the personnel, the vessels, the aircraft or the other aids to detect the presence of persons at spots useful for smuggling and other offensive activities.

The numerous stories about surreptitious arrivals here of mysterious strangers tend to gain plenty of credence when an incident like Saturday night's regrettable event occurs.

It is officially believed that the men in question actually came to this country, perhaps from Martinique, and disembarked "at a point not classified as a port of entry, leaving their boat in seclusion."

That these men, supposedly unfamiliar with Port of Spain or Trinidad, for that matter, could penetrate the city under cover of Carnival without arousing any suspicion and then proceed to their objective unimpeded is an object lesson--and a frightening one.

Let us keep before us the thought that we live in an era that may be loosely termed the Age of Terrorism. Let us appreciate the fact that our country is an economic plum in the Caribbean, endowed with considerable reserves of oil and natural gas and moving into the field of heavy industrialisation with multi-million dollar investments at Point Lisas.

Vigilant

Also we cannot be blind to the fact that the region in which we live is now a sea of turbulence with one neighbouring island in the grip of a regime which gained power by a not-bloodless coup aided by Cuban military and other islands have been the target of armed attempts at takeover by foreign agents.

In the circumstances, we cannot see any other reaction from the powers that be than an immediate and comprehensive look at our national security arrangements and the introduction of measures to provide our country and its shores with the kind of vigilant and even aggressive surveillance, patrol and defensive power that our safety requires.

We can take some example from our Venezuelan neighbours. While their fishermen are free to come ashore in Trinidad and even transact some small business, our fishermen have to contend with the ever vigilant Venezuelan Coast Guard.

We cannot blame the Venezuelans for this. They are simply more security conscious than us. That's why they do not have a problem with illegal immigrants.

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BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL FINANCING--Just over \$77 million was approved in loans by the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) in 1981, with food production getting the biggest slice. Over \$18 million was devoted to livestock development and \$8 million to crops, while the fast developing fishing industry received \$42.6 million in loans last year. An indication of the importance of mechanisation in local agriculture was the \$12.7 million granted in loans for machinery, equipment and vehicles. Land transfers and acquisition took \$11 million in loans, while \$4.8 million was approved for farm/dwelling houses. There has been greater interest in agro industry, and this sector had approvals for \$5.8 million. Of the \$18 million approved, livestock broiler production took most of the funds, with \$12.1 million, sheep and goat production was allocated \$388,000 and dairy cattle and beef took \$1.1 million. Cocoa and coffee, now being rehabilitated, received \$2.1 million in loans, fruits just over \$1 million, coconuts \$161,000, sugar cane \$68,000. Not surprisingly, food crops accounted for \$4.6 million of the \$8 million approved in loans for crop production. In another area of the ADB's operations, it has been announced that complete computerisation of the bank's operations should be completed by June this year. According to bank officials, this should result in a more efficient and speedier processing of loan applications. All records are to be computerised, and the preparation for this had already begun, said ADB board member Andre Valere to Agriculture Minister Kamaluddin Mohammed some time ago. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Feb 82 p 4]

NSC CHANGES--The National Security Council has been reconstituted by the Prime Minister, Mr. George Chambers, according to Government sources. Instead of the previous 12 members, the NSC now comprises four persons--the Prime Minister as chairman; Minister of National Security John Donaldson as vice chairman; Attorney General Russell Martineau and the Chief Executive Officer of the NSC, Jim Rodrigues, who will also serve as secretary. In addition, it is understood that Mr. Chambers has appointed an Advisory group of six members who, while they are not members of the NSC, will operate under Mr. Rodriguez as chairman. The Advisory Group comprises: Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security Leo Seebaran; Chief of Defence Staff Commodore Mervyn Williams; Head of the Special Branch Deputy Commissioner Lance Selman; Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment Col. Joe Theodore and the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard, Commander Jackie Williams. It is understood that Mr. Chambers has summoned a meeting of the NSC next week. Government sources say that the change in the NSC which the Prime Minister made earlier this month was intended to make it less unwieldy and more effective, reflecting his concern about the whole question of national security and measures that may be taken as quickly as possible to bring improvements. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Feb 82 p 1]

BRIEFS

RETIRED OFFICERS' REGULATION--It has been learned that when retired officers make political statements they must clearly state that they are retired officers. This regulation was established by a presidential decree released a few minutes ago at Government House. The following is a report from Government House. [Begin relay] The decree was approved by the president in agreement with the defense minister. The president ordered: Article 1. From now on only retired generals, senior officers, field grade officers and junior officers of the armed forces are required to clearly establish that they are retired officers when carrying out activities of a political nature or making public or private political statements. When the statements are written the rank should be followed with the capital letter "R" in brackets. Article 2. Decree 685-975 of 9 September 1975, and all other regulations contradicting this present decree are hereby repealed. [end relay] [Excerpts] [PY101634 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Mar 82]

MEAT TRADED FOR OIL--Montevideo, 2 Mar (AFP)--It was today learned from official sources that Uruguay will sell Iran beef, wheat and cereal grains in exchange for its oil through an agreement which will soon be concluded. The source added that a trade delegation will leave tomorrow, Wednesday, for Tehran in order to sign the agreement. Maj Armando Mendez, chairman of the National Meat Institute, is already in Tehran. These negotiations fall within the framework of an aggressive foreign trade policy adopted by Uruguay in order to improve the trade balance with its current markets and pursue the possibility of finding new markets for its stagnant exports. At the same time, the sources disclosed that negotiations are underway to sell 50,000 tons of beef to the Argentine market. This will be a major relief to the cattle raising sector, which has an oversupply of several hundred thousand heads. The sources also said that this transaction, apart from reducing the oversupply, will take full advantage of the buyers' meat processing facilities and improve the balance of the trade which are at present completely adverse to Uruguay. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1341 GMT 2 Mar 82]

GUARANTEES FOR POLITICAL PARTIES--Montevideo, 3 Mar (TELAM)--Interior Minister Yamandu Trinidad announced last night that the police will give the necessary guarantees for political parties to operate under the new rules throughout the country provided for by the political parties statute which is currently being studied by the State Council. Trinidad said that after the Easter holidays (from 4 to 10 April) he will meet with all police chiefs of the country to give them the necessary information to allow those political parties which are already functioning (Colorado and Blanco--traditional--and the Civic Union), to do so normally. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1250 GMT 3 Mar 82]

MEAT SALES TO ISRAEL--Montevideo, 15 Feb (TELAM)--Shlomo Cohen, Israeli charge d'affaires, today reported that Uruguay has signed an agreement with the State of Israel for the sale of \$70 million worth of meat products. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1900 GMT 15 Feb 82 PY]

UN AMBASSADOR DESIGNATED--Montevideo, 19 Feb (AFP)--Official sources reported on 19 February that Juan Carlos Blanco, former Uruguayan foreign minister, has been designated Uruguayan ambassador to the United Nations replacing Jorge Azar Gomez. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1612 GMT 19 Feb 82 PY]

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